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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
**Should the CNMI grant improved immigration status to long-term alien workers?**

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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Papal Trip

Pope Benedict XVI stepped onto U.S. soil for the time as pontiff Tuesday.

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### Armed Monks

Police seized explosives, a gun and banned Tibetan flags during searches of six monasteries.

**ASIA...Page 15**



### Plane Crash

A Congolese jetliner carrying 79 passengers and crew crashed on takeoff Tuesday. At least 21 people were killed.

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House rejects Senate changes to power bill. **PAGE 2**  
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## Lack of malpractice insurance limits claims vs CHC

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
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REPORTER

In 2004, an 18-year-old boy had a tracheotomy done at the Com-

monwealth Health Center. As he was getting ready to go home, his mother called for one of the doctors to come and adjust her son's tracheotomy tube as it was

protruding at an angle.

The doctor, allegedly without looking at the patient's medical file, forced the tube down the boy's throat, which caused

bleeding and an infection that eventually killed the boy.

Because the doctor was an employee of the Commonwealth government and acted

in this capacity at the time the tragic event happened, the case pitted the family versus the Commonwealth. The case was  
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## Outages damage new prison's aircons

### Transfer of detainees to new prison delayed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**T**he frequent power outages have damaged five of the nine air-conditioning compressors at the new state-of-the-art prison in Susupe.

**See OUTAGES on Page 4**

### 6M lbs of beach trash in one day

By **H. JOSEF HEBERT**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The world's beaches and shores are anything but pristine.

Volunteers scoured 33,000 miles (53,106 kilometers) of shoreline worldwide and found 6 million pounds (2.7 million kilograms) of debris from cigarette butts and food

**See 6M on Page 4**



### YOUNG GLOBETROTTER

A Japanese child tourist pushes her luggage upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport via Northwest Airlines yesterday afternoon. Tourism numbers were up in the two southernmost populated islands of the CNMI last month, but was down in the capital of Saipan.  
**See story on Page 2**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## 'NMI labor, immigration laws will be superseded'

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

Certain Northern Marianas labor laws will lose their effect once the federal government takes over local immigration.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, in its legal analysis of the federalization bill, said the proposed legislation would supersede all CNMI immigration laws, as well as some CNMI labor laws related

to the entry and exit of aliens.

That includes most of provisions of Public Law 15-108, the comprehensive law setting new immigration and labor rules that took effect on Jan. 1, 2008.

One example is the CNMI's

bond requirement which, the GAO said, would presumably be preempted by any bond requirements already present in U.S. immigration law.

Commonwealth laws that  
**See NMI on Page 4**

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# Local

## House rejects Senate changes to power bill

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives rejected yesterday the Senate amendments to the bill reversing the October 2007 rollback of power rates.

Members of the lower chamber, by a vote of 17-2, agreed to send the bill to the Senate in the form that it first passed.

They maintain that the Senate-added requirement for the Public Utilities Commission to set new rates in 60 days cannot be done. It was learned that PUC will need at least six months to establish new utility, as the commissioners still have

to undergo training.

Representatives Diego Benavente and Joseph Reyes voted against sending the bill back to the Senate, saying this will delay enactment of the bill.

House Bill 16-79, as originally approved by the House, would restore the previous rate structure that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. adopted in 2006 in a bid to cope with oil price increases.

The bill would repeal Public Law 15-94, which forced residential rates down to 17 cents per kWh in October 2007, and either reduced or scrapped other charges for residential customers.

The Senate passed the bill with changes. Under the Senate-amended version, the rollback law would only be suspended for 60 days, instead of being scrapped altogether.

The Public Utilities Commission must set new rates within those 60 days. If the regulatory body fails to do so, the rolled-back rates will again come into effect.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed P.L. 15-94 amid pressure from the consumers who were suffering from the sudden hike in power rates.

However, the Legislature's action hurt the utility's finances. According to CUC, the roll-

back, compounded by the rising cost of fuel, has caused the utility to face a monthly shortfall of about \$1 million for fuel. For months now, the cash-strapped government has ended up paying millions of dollars in fuel subsidy to CUC.

This occurred even though the 17-cent rate remained in effect for one month only. In November 2007, CUC adopted emergency regulations that enabled the utility to adjust the power rates depending on fuel prices.

But the regulations expired last month. Currently, CUC is back to charging 17 cents per kWh.

## SOCA finally set on May 2, at the Multi-Purpose

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

The governor is expected to deliver his third State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday, May 2, 2008.

The House of Representatives adopted yesterday a joint legislative resolution calling for a joint session on May 2 to receive an annual update from the governor on the commonwealth's overall situation.

The resident representative to the United States will also report on his progress in Washington, D.C. and pending federal issues affecting the commonwealth.

The event will be held at the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. This was decided after weeks of disagreement between the House and the Senate, which had wanted to hold the joint session in the House chamber on Capital Hill. The upper house said it was concerned about the cost of conducting the event in the Susupe venue.

As a compromise, the House included a provision in its res-

olution that no public funds should be spent to pay for excess power consumption, equipment rentals, and transportation, as well as personnel costs, before, during and after the event.

The event also will be held without the usual food and beverage for the public after the speeches.

"The Legislature finds that in these troubling economic times, it would highly inappropriate, to the point of being a breach of our duty to our constituents to expend one dollar more than necessary to receive the reports," stated the resolution.

Lawmakers also plan to attend the event in normal session attire—typically, shirt and tie for the men and semi casual clothes for the women—instead of the traditional formal wear.

"In these troubling economic times, when many are fearful of losing their jobs, it would be highly inappropriate and insulting to receive the reports in the usual celebratory manner," the resolution said.

## CUC implements another load shedding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday implemented another power rotation, but tried to spare areas with schools from the outages.

CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho said that load shedding was needed as the rehabilitation and maintenance repairs

on the power engines and generators at the Power Plant I in Lower Base continue.

"Engine No. 3 got mechanical problems and they [CUC crew] were performing repairs today and will work throughout the night to fix it," Camacho said.

CUC was expected to complete the repairs on Engine No. 3 this morning, Thursday.

The outages began at 8am. From 8am to 10am, the outage

affected Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose intersection.

From 10am to 12pm, affected areas were Joeten Commercial Complex in Dandan, Kannat Tabla, Standford Hotel area, streets in Upper China Town, Upper Miha in Garapan, and Taro Sue to portions of China Town.

From 12pm to 2pm, the outage was at portions of Capitol

Hill, Kagman, and Papago.

From 2pm to 4pm, the entire grid of feeder 7 or the areas in Lower Base, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi had no power.

From 4pm to 6pm the scheduled outage was in Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/airport, and As Perdido.

From 6pm to 8pm, the blackout was set at Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa.

See CUC on Page 4

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# It's for real: Hollywood Theaters shutting down

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's official: Hollywood Theaters will close for a month and may ultimately shut down its Saipan operations altogether.

This was confirmed in an e-mail yesterday by Oregon-based Wallace Theatres Corp. vice president for marketing Heather Wright.

In the e-mail, Wright said that Hollywood Theaters will discontinue operations for 30 days after the last showing this evening and then re-evaluate whether it's economically feasible to continue.

She said the island's bad economy and rising operational costs led to Wallace Theatres

## Visitor arrivals up on Tinian and Rota but down on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tourism numbers were up in the two southernmost populated islands of the CNMI last month, but was down in the capital of Saipan.

According to the Marianas Visitor Authority, visitor arrivals to Tinian and Rota posted growth in March 2008 with the latter registering a six percent increase and the former enjoying a more modest four percent bump.

Tinian, the Northern Marianas' gambling capital, welcomed 3,430 tourists last month compared to 3,225 during the same period last year.

Visitor arrivals from China led the market with a healthy 48-percent hike to 1,728 in March 2008 from 1,166 in March 2007, while tourist from Japan rose seven percent from 698 to 749.

China and Japan arrivals more than made up for the losses incurred from the markets of Korea (11 percent drop to 299), Guam (27 percent drop to 22), and the United States (56 percent drop to 21).

Rota, for its part, was buoyed by the arrival of 971 tourists last month, which was a 37-person jump from the 934 recorded in March 2007.

The Korea market led arrivals with a whopping 160-percent increase to 39 from 15 in March 2007. U.S. arrivals, including those coming from Guam, soared 48 percent to 186 from 126 during the same month last year, while the markets of the Philippine and Japan posted declines of six percent and one percent to 107 and 521, respectively.

Saipan was the odd man out in March 2008, as the most populated island of the Northern Mariana chain saw tourism arrivals shrink four percent to 31,899 from 33,134 during the

temporarily halting operations at the seven-theater Hollywood Theaters.

"Unfortunately, Saipan's lackluster economy has resulted in low attendance levels and many operating expenses have significantly increased over the last year. We are closing the doors for one month and will review the financial situation again before coming to a long-term decision," she wrote.

Rumors of the CNMI's lone cinema complex shutting down spread like wildfire early this week but wasn't confirmed until Wright's statement.

In a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday, Hollywood Theater general manager William Santos was

noncommittal when asked about rumors relating to the establishment's closing. However when he was asked why Hollywood Theater doesn't have an entry for its movie schedules beginning Friday—either on its website or through telephone—and whether the seven-stadium venue would be open on April 18 and beyond, Santos said, "I have not issued a schedule for Friday...we are not open for Friday." He also replied "no" when asked if the establishment would be open for the rest of April.

Even staff at Hollywood Theater remain tight-lipped about the company's plans as queries about Friday's schedule were quickly referred to Santos.

*Saipan Tribune* also browsed through Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex's website and found that it only has entries up to Thursday, April 17, where it abruptly ends. It, however, has a posting beginning May 16, 2008, when *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince of Caspian* is scheduled for showing.

Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex, located next to Price Costco, opened with much fanfare in Sept. 8, 1999.

During its first week of operation, the venue showed *Deep Blue Sea*, *Haunting*, *Iron Giant*, *Mystery Men*, *Bowfinger*, *American Pie*, *Thomas Crown*, and *Miss Kristina Moran*.

Currently showing at Hollywood Theater are *Leatherheads*, *Nim's Island*, *Superhero Movie*, *Drillbit Taylor*, *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*, *Never Back Down*, *10,000 B.C.*, *College Road Trip*, and *Definitely, Maybe*.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Rota Vendors only. All interested vendors can pick up an application at the main office located at the upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 15, 2008 through April 30, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.) or download an application online by visiting our website at [cnmiwic.org](http://cnmiwic.org). The Vendor Selection Criteria is attached to the applications and can also be viewed on line at [www.cnmiwic.org](http://www.cnmiwic.org).

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2008. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications and requirements are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4071, by email at [fabianu.cnmiwic@gmail.com](mailto:fabianu.cnmiwic@gmail.com) or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez  
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela  
CNMI WIC Program, Director

# Torres wants bird removed from endangered list

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are debating whether a bird unique to the Northern Marianas should be removed from the endangered species list.

Rep. Stanley Torres introduced yesterday a resolution urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the nightingale

reed warbler, locally known as "ga'ga' karisu," as an endangered species.

The nightingale reed warbler was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Dec. 2, 1970. The bird species can be found on Saipan and Alamagan. Until the 1960s, it could also be found on Guam but it became extinct because of predation by brown tree snakes.

Torres said the species has recovered and does not need the federal protection that has delayed many potential developments on Saipan.

In fact, he said, the bird species has a habitat below his house. To illustrate his point, he played a five-minute recording of the birds singing outside his bedroom window.

"My point is that there's so many

of them. They are all over the island," said Torres.

But Torres' claim was met with skepticism.

Representatives Joseph Deleon Guerrero and Ray N. Yumul challenged Torres to provide facts to support his request.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider called for caution. "This matter should not be

taken lightly. It speaks volumes about how we view our natural resources," he said.

For her part, Rep. Tina Sablan maintained that the protection of the endangered species does not prevent development. She noted that there are options in place for businesses seeking to develop land that harbors the nightingale reed warbler.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, the only member to speak in support of Torres' resolution, downplayed the effect of the document. He said it was a mere request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife; it does not mandate the delisting of the species.

## 6M

From Page 1

wrappers to abandoned fishing lines and plastic bags that threaten seabirds and marine mammals.

A report by the Ocean Conservancy, to be released Wednesday, catalogues nearly 7.2 million items that were collected by volunteers on a single day last September as they combed beaches and rocky shorelines in 76 countries from Bahrain to Bangladesh and in 45 U.S. states.

"This is a snapshot of one day, one moment in time, but it serves as a powerful reminder of our care-

lessness and how our disparate and random actions actually have a collective and global impact," said Vikki Spruill, president of the Ocean Conservancy in an interview.

The 378,000 volunteers on average collected 182 pounds (83 kilograms) of trash for every mile (1.6 kilometers) of shoreline, both ocean coastlines and beaches on inland lakes and streams, providing a "global snapshot of the ocean trash problem."

The most extensive cleanup was in the United States where 190,000 volunteers covered 10,110 miles (16,270 kilometers) (16,16,270 kilometers)—about a third of the worldwide total—and picked up 3.9 million pounds

(1.7 million kilograms) of debris on a single Saturday last September, according to the report.

That is 390 pounds (177 kilograms) of trash per mile, among the highest rates of any country, although the high number also reflects the large number of U.S. volunteers that took part, said Spruill. By comparison, volunteers in neighboring Canada collected 74 pounds (33.5 kilograms) per mile and those in Mexico, 157 pounds (71.2 kilograms) per mile, said the report.

About 65 pounds (29.4 kilograms) of trash were collected per mile in China and 46 pounds (20.8 kilograms) per mile in New Zealand. Volunteers covered one mile in Bahrain and

found 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of trash. A mile is 1.6 kilometers

But Spruill said the volume of trash collected tells only part of the story. It's the items that are found that tells us about the behavior of people enjoying the beaches and coastlines of the world.

"It represents a general carelessness we have. ... We're the bad guys. Trash doesn't fall from the sky. It actually falls from our hands," said Spruill.

The debris ranges from the relatively harmless, although annoying and an eyesore, to items that annually result in the death of hundreds of thousands of seabirds and marine mammals caught in abandoned fishing lines and netting.

## NMI

From Page 1

apply to foreign agricultural workers would be replaced by federal requirements for the admission and treatment of H-2A workers or other related federal laws. Under federal law, employers of temporary workers in the agricultural sector must provide their workers with housing, insurance, three meals a day, and the tools and equipments to do their jobs. CNMI law requires only that employers provide medical insurance to foreign workers, and gives em-

ployers the option to provide additional benefits such as housing, food, and transportation.

The GAO, however, was unsure exactly what would happen to the CNMI's permit program once federalization is in effect.

"Other CNMI laws that are administered as part of the CNMI's permit program also might be affected because the CNMI's permit program will be replaced with federal law, and it is unclear whether these CNMI programs will continue to be administered," the GAO said.

For example, the federal agency said,

a CNMI law requiring notice and orientation procedures for guest workers admitted to the CNMI, as well as laws mandating employers to provide medical insurance to employees and provide mediation procedures in the case of contract disputes, have no counterpart in the federalization bill.

The GAO said it is unknown whether these existing requirements would be administered after federalization.

The federal agency added that existing CNMI agreements with China and the Philippines could be affected by the immigration bill. But it is unclear whether the agreements would be ad-

hered to or would be superseded.

Further, the federalization bill does not contain set requirements for hiring a certain percentage of citizens. Under current local law, employers are required to hire at least 30 percent of their employees from local residents. CNMI law also requires that employers seeking to hire foreign workers must prove that they advertised the position and were unable to find a qualified CNMI resident.

Under the federal system, no quota exists for the hiring of local residents. But federal immigration law requires that employers seeking to fill jobs with

applicants for H-2B visas must demonstrate that they have been unable to identify a qualified U.S. worker for the position.

Similarly, employers of H-2A applicants must certify through the Department of Labor that U.S. workers cannot be found to perform the job and that the hiring of the foreign worker will not hurt the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers doing the same job.

"However, without regulations implementing the pending legislation, it is unknown whether the CNMI-only work permit program will include requirements related to U.S. workers," the GAO said.

## OUTAGES

From Page 1

As a result, the planned transfer of inmates and detainees to the new prison at the end of this month will be delayed by two or three more months, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio disclosed that three air-conditioning compressors broke down in the past three months due to

power fluctuations.

Tenorio said another compressor broke down last month, while the fifth one happened just two days ago.

"As much as we really want to move in anytime toward the end of this month, the power fluctuation has actually caused the additional compressor that we have to break," he said.

The commissioner said the four remaining operating air-conditioners can partially accommodate the DOC administration's office and one or two of

the housing units.

"We cannot just bring in the inmates in this weather right now," he said.

Tenorio said they are trying to get the Department of Public Works to act on the problem so they can get the main contractor, Telesource, to have its subcontractor come in and fix the problem right away because the air-conditioners are still in the warranty period.

"We're just tired of waiting and waiting and pushing and pushing,"

Tenorio said.

The division is also installing IT infrastructure within the building. The commissioner said that cables are already in place, but minor work is still being done by Pacific Telecommunications Inc.

He said that even if PTI gets done in a matter of two to three weeks, the compressor problem is expected to cause another three months of delay because of shipping the materials or units.

The new prison, officially named Vi-

cente Taman Seman Memorial Building, was just unveiled in February. Construction on the 100,000 square-foot lot in Susupe began in 2002. The first target opening date was either February or March 2006. Contractual issues caused the long delay in the facility's opening.

At the opening last February, DOC officials said the inmates and detainees are expected to be slowly transferred "in the coming weeks" from the old detention to the new building.

## LACK

From Page 1

actually scheduled to be heard in court this month but it did not make it to trial.

According to lawyer George Hasselback, an aid of judgment of \$50,000 was offered to the family of the deceased, which they accepted. The aid of judgment is a tool that defendants can use to make an offer to settle a case.

Although the doctor was eventually found guilty of medical malpractice in this case, Hasselback said the family was only awarded \$50,000 for the wrongful death of their son.

This is because doctors employed at CHC are not covered by medical malpractice insurance. Also, the hospital has put a cap on the amount it will give out to settle malpractice cases. Lawyer Michael Dotts said that the Commonwealth is only responsible for damages of up to \$50,000 for wrongful death or

\$100,000 for personal injury.

"What the government should really do is get medical malpractice insurance for their doctors," Dotts said. "Instead, what CHC did was put a limit on their liability."

A proposal had been made not long ago to require Commonwealth doctors to have medical malpractice insurance; however, this proposal did not pass.

Dotts said that medical malpractice insurance does two things: "If we require our doctors to have medical malpractice insurance, it will ensure good doctors as it screens them before anything. Another thing it does is it removes the \$50,000 cap for wrongful death and \$100,000 for personal injury, providing a more reasonable amount of money to compensate the person who suffered the accident."

Dotts spoke of a case a few years back between a certain De Guzman and an obstetrician/gynecologist at CHC.

"What happened was the woman's water broke. And normally, within 72

hours you have to induce labor. However, a week later, this woman was still in the hospital, pregnant. Eventually her baby got infected and then ended up being delivered dead," Dotts said.

DeGuzman was awarded \$80,000 in this case.

Dotts said that as the case was going on, it was discovered that the doctor actually had his medical license suspended in California for gross malpractice. His license was also suspended in Indiana but "they [Department of Public Health] went ahead and hired him anyway."

The doctor remained at CHC even after the DeGuzman case until he resigned over a year ago.

"There has been so many medical malpractices at CHC, just so many. If we required our doctors to have medical malpractice insurance, we will not be able to hire somebody like Ramsey," Dotts said.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said that all government-hired physicians and other medical staff are

indemnified by the CNMI government whenever malpractice cases crop up.

Moreover, "all non-government physician need to show proof of medical liability coverage should they want to practice at the government-run hospital (i.e., CHC)," Villagomez said.

He said that since one of the major issues with private providers is that there is no readily available medical malpractice insurance coverage carrier in the CNMI or Guam, there is a compromise to request all private physicians that want to work at CHC to show purchase of a bond for up to \$100,000 or show asset (either monetary or goods) that is also at the \$100,000 level."

Dotts said that just because medical malpractice insurance is not "readily available, that does not mean it cannot be bought. Legal malpractice insurance [for lawyers] is not readily available but we have them. If lawyers can find it, our hospital can find it," Dotts said.

He added that, "If they have to pay \$50,000 for medical policy, it's cheaper

not to have anything because the limit on their liabilities are so low."

Hasselback said "It does seem illogical at first but I think the way the law is being looked at is, if the person is dead, he's dead. He will not need continuing care or medicine or treatment, and there is no more suffering from the person."

However, he added that the downside of this is "if a doctor commits malpractice which the person would have to live with for the next 50 years of his life and he would need \$100,000 for medical treatment in one year, he is out of luck for the next 49 years because the Commonwealth is only responsible for \$100,000."

Dotts said that, although "it is true that the CNMI economy does not have that much money, people are still very dependent on CHC."

"I think if we are going to fund anything properly, it really should be health care. We should not be cheap in our medical care and we should really get good doctors," Dotts said.

# Tinian mayor in RP to work on closing landfill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas is currently in the Philippines to meet with some groups that can possibly close the Tinian landfill and open a new dumpsite.

John E. Untalan, chief executive officer for the Office of the Mayor for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, told *Saipan Tribune* that the mayor is checking out a process to close a dumpsite that has been developed in the Philippines and San Nicolas is now negotiating with some companies there for the possibility of using the same system here.

"Definitely there's a lot of procedures that need to be done to officially close the Tinian landfill," he said.

Untalan explained that part of the island's efforts to have an international airport and accept international flights is to relocate the present landfill, which is adja-

cent to the Tinian airport runway.

"The landfill is within the six-mile radius right now of the airline. So that has to be moved. That's why the mayor is in the Philippines. He is meeting with some possible groups that can close down the landfill for us," he said.

Untalan said they are still working on where to put the new dump.

"The problem with the landfill right now is it just too close to the airport. We need to move it from the airport. And it is not adequate for the size of Tinian. Maybe before, it was adequate for Tinian," he said.

Untalan said the dumpsite's size is not possible now, with the growth of the island and the building of a new casino by the MRDC Investment.

San Nicolas declared a state of disaster emergency on Tinian in November 2006, citing the government's failure to close the island's unsafe dumpsite in over eight years.

The mayor stated in his declaration that Commonwealth and federal officials had warned Tinian of the dangers of above and below-ground fires at the landfill.

The accumulation of carbon monoxide in nearby areas is reportedly polluting Barcinas Bay, a major fishing and diving spot on the island.

The landfill has also been hampering aircraft landing due to fires. The Federal Aviation Administration had already required the Commonwealth Ports Authority to close the dumpsite and relocate it away from the airport.

The landfill is located within a public land that is being negotiated for lease by MRDC, which has

been planning to build a casino.

In July 2007, then acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez vetoed a House bill appropriating \$54,000 for the relocation of the landfill.

Villagomez said that, among other things, the amount was not enough to fund the closure of the landfill and its relocation and that \$54,000 is grossly insufficient.

He said approximately \$5.2 million is needed to construct a new landfill so the old one could cease operations.

Tinian has been beefing up its Immigration staff in anticipation of an economic boom that is expected to come soon due to U.S. military buildup and the opening of a new casino, among other projects.

## Drowning man rescued in lagoon

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Boating safety officers rescued a man who had leg cramps while fishing in the lagoon along Beach Road in Chalan Lamlau Sunday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that 27-year-old Marco Fital refused to be

brought to the Commonwealth Health Center and was released at the scene.

The DPS spokesperson said that on Sunday at 3:43pm police received a report of a stranded swimmer inside the lagoon along Beach Road.

Preliminary investigation showed that Fital went fishing in the lagoon and that after 10 minutes, he sustained a cramp

on the leg.

Fital waved his arms in the air to get help. A witness identified as Ramir Santos saw the victim and asked help from Pete Pereda, who was walking along the pathway. Ogumoro said that Pereda called the police.

Boating Safety officers arrived at the scene and transported Fital safely to the shore. Medics treated the vic-

tim at the scene.

Pereda, however, said that it was actually Jing Hao Lee of Jy Corp. who saved the victim. Pereda said that Lee was driving along Beach Road and that he flagged him down to ask for his help, seeing as he was towing some jet skis. Lee parked beside the road, put on his diving suit, and jumped into the water to save Fital.

## Guam Army Guard soldier is wounded

A soldier of the Guam Army National Guard was wounded in Afghanistan yesterday.

Private Joseph Miner was shot through the right arm while performing a security patrol. The soldier is in a hospital and is doing well and remains in good spirits.

Miner, who is with the Alpha Company, 1/294<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (L), Guam Army National Guard, was presented yesterday with the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge in Afghanistan by Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, 101<sup>st</sup> Divi-

sion commander. The soldier is deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"On behalf of the members of the Guam National Guard, both Army and Air, we would like to share our thoughts and prayers with him and his family, and we pray for a quick and full recovery," said Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, the Adjutant General, Guam National Guard.

More information will be released as it becomes available. (PR)

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"Bet with your head, not over it"



# CREES gets \$24K to control slugs on Rota

As part of its efforts to study and curb the spread of harmful slugs, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service recently secured a grant totaling \$23,673 from the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

Titled "Comparative Study of Cuban Slugs Suppression Using Grazing Ducks, Neem Extracts and Chemical Baits in the CNMI," the project aims to explore and demonstrate

cost-effective, environmentally-friendly, and sustainable alternative practices to slug and pest control in vegetable production.

The project is led by Alejandro E. Badilles, NMC-CREES Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the CNMI. He is joined by three Rota producers that include Nurul Islam Paeda, Jack Manglona and Maria Fujihira.

According to Badilles, the agricultural losses from Cuban slugs on Rota have been substantial, and the costs for appropriate corrective measures prohibitive.

Many farmers have already abandoned their fields because of the prevalence of slugs. Additionally, the increasing presence of slugs will continue to threaten Rota's agricultural viability and image as a nature sanctuary.

"Mr. Badilles's work will have far-reaching benefits, especially in the preservation of lively, agricultural activity in the CNMI," said NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are

proud of his achievements and those of his team and look forward to his research findings."

One method that is being examined as a means to slow the spread of slugs is to employ the use of ducks as predators for the slugs. The ducks have not only the advantage of clearing weeds, fertilizing the ground, providing farmers with eggs, but they also eat any slugs and pests that they encounter. Ducks do little damage to crops, and have been used in the Far East for centuries to

clear slugs and snails from rice and vegetable fields.

The planting and use of Neem trees will also be used as a means of providing readily available organic pesticides to fight the pests. Researchers have recently been extolling the Neem trees' benefits, saying that Neem trees could be called wonder trees. This wonder tree has pesticide, germicidal, and medicinal properties and is capable of solving many problems. Therefore, an increased commercial planta-

tion and agro-forestry involving Neem trees can enhance the economical potential of this tree with positive and large externalities for pesticides, fertilizers, livestock, dairying, and other value-added products.

PhotoCaption: NMC-CREES recently received a grant totaling \$23,673 from the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program to study and suppress the spread of harmful slugs like the ones shown above. (NMC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The agricultural losses from Cuban slugs on Rota have been substantial, and the costs for appropriate corrective measures prohibitive.

## ? Q&A

### Ensuring your water is safe

The Division of Environmental Quality's Safe Drinking Water Program's greatest achievement over the past several years has been the identification of all of the water systems in the CNMI for which the regulations apply, and helping them ALL come into compliance with the monitoring requirements of the National Primary Drinking Water Standards.

This means that all of the Public Water Systems in the CNMI monitor their water (take samples and perform tests) for bacteriological and chemical contaminants on a routine basis to ensure that the water is safe for people to use.

#### What is a 'public water system'?

A public water system collects, treats, or distributes water for "human consumption" (which includes drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, food preparation, cooking, dish washing, or oral hygiene); and has at least 15 service connections or serves at least 25 people daily at least 60 days a year.

Examples of some public water systems in the CNMI include:

- Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
- Bottled Water Companies
- Hotels or restaurants that treat water
- Garment factory barracks that use rain water
- Schools with their own wells

#### What does DEQ require public water systems to do?

There are currently 93 public water systems that are regulated by DEQ. These water systems are required to test their water every month for coliform bacteria, and test their water for other contaminants like lead, copper, nitrates, and arsenic based on a schedule determined by DEQ. All of this sampling and testing is expensive. Water systems spend anywhere between \$1,000 and \$5,000 (or more) annually, depending on their size, to test their water. This sampling and testing ensures that consumers get safe water.

Analysis of all chemical contaminants used to have to be conducted by off island DEQ certified laboratories. However, since February 2008, nitrate samples can be analyzed using new equipment at the DEQ Environmental Surveillance Laboratory, saving public water systems' money on expensive shipping costs.

In addition to sampling and testing, DEQ requires public water systems to disinfect their water with chlorine or other means to ensure it is not contaminated with bacteria or other pathogens. Also, public water systems must be operated by a person that has passed a test and been "certified" as a water operator by DEQ.

Public water systems must be aware of all the drinking water regulations. DEQ periodically

holds workshops to educate public water systems owners and operators about new or revised regulations.

Before a public water system is constructed or modified, DEQ must review and approve the plans to ensure that the new facility utilizes approved fixtures and will provide safe water.

Before a public water system first serves water to the public, DEQ must inspect the facility and grant an approval to operate the water system.

DEQ formally conducts sanitary survey inspections of public water systems at least once every three years. Public water systems have 30 days to correct any significant deficiencies that DEQ finds during the inspection.

#### What happens if a public water system violates the regulations?

Public water systems that violate the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations can be assessed a penalty of up to \$25,000 per day per violation. That is a very hefty fine! DEQ would rather not have to fine a water system though. DEQ's primary goal is to ensure that your water is safe to use.

When DEQ first learns that a water system



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC's lab manager Heidi Yelin and a DEQ laboratory technician check for chlorine in a sample.

is not in compliance with the regulations, DEQ does everything it can to help the water system get back into compliance so that it is providing safe water. Assessing a penalty is the method of last resort when a public water system is not willing to comply with regulations.

#### How do know if my water is safe?

All public water systems are required to submit their monthly tests results and should there be any violations, are required to publish those results.

Annually, public water systems are required to inform their customers about their water quality through a brief annual water quality report, also known as the consumer confidence report or CCR. The CCR is due to DEQ and customers on July 1st each year.

If you would like to know about your bottled water company or restaurant's water quality, you may also inquire with DEQ's Safe Drinking Water program at any time.

Jose Kaipat, Safe Drinking Water program manager, can be reached at 664-8500. (DEQ)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### ADDENDUM NO.4 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-07-015

#### Grid Supply Renewable Electricity Generation Projects for CNMI

**Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers/ firms / agencies of the following revisions:

#### 1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CANCELLED.

CUC has withdrawn this requirement to allow for wider participation in the interest of the CUC consumers and the CNMI community and to obtain the most responsive and competitive proposals.

#### 2. QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS FROM PROPOSERS - Time Extended to Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

#### 3. FINAL RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS BY CUC – By Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

**4. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PROPOSERS – EXTENDED.** One (1) original and seven (7) copies to be submitted by Friday, May 16, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time) in a sealed envelope and addressed to the CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel. 1 (670) 235 7025 – 7032 and Fax. 1 (670) 235 5138. For proposers who are based outside of CNMI, the submission shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within 7 working days (no later than May 28, 2008).

**ANTHONY C. GUERRERO**  
Executive Director

# Global Traveler on Saipan, Tinian

A representative of *Global Traveler* magazine was recently on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. The magazine will feature the islands in its August 2008 issue.

*Global Traveler* is a monthly magazine that enjoys a circulation of 69,023 with a targeted audience of executive business travelers. It is enjoying its fifth year of publication.

The article will be a leisure profile that will include information on the destination, activities including where to relax, adventure, shopping and sightseeing, history, culture and several ho-

tel and restaurant reviews. The value of the article is in excess of \$100,000 of free publicity.

While here, the magazine visited Mariana Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The reporter also experienced a trekking adventure, the magic show at Sandcastle, shopping at DFS Galleria and the local tourist attractions. He also had the opportunity to do a boat trip as well as a dive, giving him a first hand experience to see what a spectacular diving destination the CNMI is.

MVA would like to thank the

following members for their support during *Global Traveler's* visit. Mariana Resort & Spa, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Sandcastle Saipan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc.

"On behalf of MVA and the islands of Saipan and Tinian, I would like to thank *Global Traveler* Magazine for showcasing our islands in its upcoming August issue," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's complimentary exposure like this that allows the CNMI to continually be showcased to potential visitors to our islands." (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The *Global Traveler* magazine reporter poses for a picture with Marianas Visitors Authority officials.



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-018

#### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL LED LAMPS AND PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL LED LAMPS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Traffic Signal LED Lamps and Pedestrian Signal LED Lamps, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 3, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (**US\$25.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 21, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room in Gualo Rai above Pizza Hut, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 24, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-018**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 2, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 2, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 2, 2008, and must be received no later than May 13, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 7, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the authorized funding agency.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ THELMA B. INOS  
Director, Energy Division

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



*Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

#### REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

#### SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

#### ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

#### GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

#### EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). On-island hires preferred.

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

# Hap Halloran visits Saipan anew

Ray "Hap" Halloran, stationed on Saipan during World War II with the 73rd Bomb Wing as an aircraft navigator and a surviving prisoner of war, arrives on Saipan this afternoon, April 17, for what may be his last visit to the islands.

In recent years, Halloran has participated in several World War II commemoration ceremonies in the Northern Marianas. Most recently, he and the 73rd Bomb Wing hosted Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez as keynote speaker at their annual reunion on 2007 in Covington, Kentucky.

"Hap is an extraordinary gentleman and an American hero," said Villagomez. "We have always welcomed the visits of our World War II vets and their

families, and we hope to make Hap's visit especially memorable this time."

Halloran will speak on his experiences at Northern Marianas College the afternoon of his arrival. He will also present "Time Heals All Wounds...Almost" for the public on April 18, 2008, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center. Admission is free.

Halloran was born on Feb. 4, 1922, in Cincinnati, OH, of parents Paul and Gertrude Halloran. Shortly after Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941), Halloran volunteered for the Army Air Corps at Wright-Patterson air base in Dayton, OH. He was assigned to the 878th Squadron, 499th Bomb Group VH, 73rd Wing, 20th Air Force.

Saipan was the base of operations for the 73rd Bomb Wing in that battle against targets on the Japanese mainland. On his fourth mission his plane was shot down. He survived as a prisoner of war in Japan until the war ended on Aug. 15, 1945.

Halloran plans to revisit historic military sites on Saipan and Tinian during his visit. VFW Post 3457 will host a reception for Halloran and the visiting USS Columbus.

"Other than a dozen some photos...all I would hope for would be a nice smile from my friends and associates on Saipan and Tinian as I head north to Tokyo and then to San Francisco with all my wonderful memories of my last days in the Northern

Marianas," Halloran shared in a recent e-mail to Saipan friend Jerry Facey.

"I met Hap during the Commemoration activities in 1994. Since that time he has returned to Saipan and Tinian several times because of his genuine love of the islands and their people," said Facey. "During these visits he always insists we visit the B-29 parking places (hardstands) on the South side of the runway as he remembers his last flight for Japan on Jan. 27, 1945. In particular, he recalls the chaplain's standing by the end of the runway blessing each plane as it lifted off the tarmac. I am sure he includes a prayer for his crew who did not make it at the other end of the bomb run."

## Get ready for 2nd *Beach Road* car rally

By insistent public demand, *Beach Road Magazine*, the islands' most popular monthly lifestyle and entertainment magazine, has launched Saipan's second annual car rally.

Stated for May 24, this year's event promises to be even more exciting than last year's as it takes you round the island testing your IQ and scavenger hunting skills.

"We'd like to make the car rally more challenging and fun this year," Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager and the event's overall coordinator, said.

This year, the rally is open to drivers 16 years and older. Visitors are welcome to join. Each car is required to have at least one driver and as many navigators as participants think it would take to successfully complete the course.

Last year's car rally had 13 entries with the top three teams winning cash prizes and all participants receiving various gift certificates from numerous spon-

sors, including hotels and bars.

More participants are expected this year considering the prizes at stake. "There'll be more exciting prizes this year," Marchitti said.

Registration is \$15 and space is limited to 60 cars. Grab a copy of *Beach Road Magazine* for the entry forms, fill them out and submit to the Glimpses of Saipan office on the second floor of the Transpac Business Center along Middle Road, Gualo Rai (near Subway restaurant) during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A popular motoring event in the United States and Europe, a car rally is not a speeding contest. It's a cross between a scavenger hunt and an IQ test behind the wheel that's guaranteed to take your driving skills to the next level.

The Second Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is a competitive motoring event in which drivers must successfully complete a given course by following a set of instructions. The

starting point will be announced. Drivers will receive a new set of instructions at each checkpoint, which will guide them through the next section of the rally up to the finish.

Everyone will receive a prize just for making it through the course.

Winners will be announced at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the evening of May 25. A special 10 percent discount on non-special food items will be given to car rally participants.

So polish your driving and navigational skills and get ready for the most exciting motoring event of the year.

The Second Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is sponsored by Shell Marianas, Pacific Telecom Inc., American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Aquarius Beach Tower and Budget Car Rental.

See *Beach Road Magazine* print ads for details. (PR)

## NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will conduct English placement tests on the following dates:

■ May 15, 2008, 5pm – 8pm, Room: D-1

■ May 16, 2008, 9am – 12pm, Room: D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). The \$25 fee is applicable to the NMC application for all students.

If you have any questions please call the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2000 or 1242. (NMC)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 17, 2000

### CNMI files protest vs Continental

The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Friday wrote the U.S. Department of Transportation decrying Continental Micronesia's treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals which CNMI officials claimed has adversely impacted CNMI's tourism industry. This is the first formal protest lodged by the CNMI government against the decision of the Continental Micronesia to drop direct international flights to and from the Northern Marianas.

### Young lauds labor and business reforms

Two crucial legislation on labor and business reforms passed recently by the House of Representatives have drawn support by some members of the U.S. Congress, boding well for the efforts to spur the local economy, according to Speaker Benigno R. Fitial. He said U.S. House Resources Committee Chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) is "very pleased" with the passage of the twin measures "because he believes that we are doing the right thing."

### Takeover of Outer Cove Marina depends on probe outcome

A planned oversight hearing on the controversy surrounding the Outer Cove Marina will uncover possible wrongdoing in the construction as well as operations of the berthing area, according to Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes. The senator earlier has asked Rep. Bobby Guerrero, chair of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, to conduct the joint investigation into the dispute between boat owners and Marine Revitalization Corp., operator of the marina.

APRIL 17, 2001

### CUC bares fiscal conditions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday submitted the comprehensive financial report ordered by the Legislature in light of the ongoing joint inquiry on its \$150 million outstanding loan to the Commonwealth Development Authority. House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho disclosed CUC met the deadline set by the Legislature and filed the report late yesterday afternoon.

### Kagman needs new textbooks

The Public School System recently approved the release of about \$60,000 in total funds for the procurement of more than 600 textbooks needed by students of the newly-opened Kagman Elementary School. School principal Ignacia Demapan disclosed in an interview yesterday that procurement of more than 600 language and arts textbooks are now underway.

### CNMI lacks fire protection facilities

The Department of Public Safety is asking the Legislature to approve its proposed Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations of \$14.6 million to expedite major improvements in several police programs. DPS Commissioner Charlie S. Ingram disclosed that one of the critical areas that need serious consideration is the Firefighting division which lacks equipment and other materials to aid them during fire incidents.

APRIL 17, 2002

### NMI popular as wedding destination

The September 11 terror attacks in the United States recoiled positively to the Northern Marianas, which, along with Guam, has been cited by travelers from Japan as one of the preferred wedding destinations around the world. This, even as the Japan Travel Bureau disclosed that reservations for honeymoon trips to the islands dropped by 4.6 percent from 95.8 in the 2001 Spring Honeymoon Season to this year's 93.4 percent.

### Once more with feelings: Diversify

As tourism remains to be the CNMI economy's bread and butter together with the apparel sector, the Pacific Asia Travel Association said the Commonwealth needs to tap other tourist markets, particularly Europe, just as another Pacific country—Palau—has penetrated the region. "Palau has an agent and a tourism office in Germany. They're really attracting a lot of tourists from Europe, from Germany, specifically to Palau for diving," said Carmen C. Gaskins, special project committee chair of PATA's Micronesia Chapter. "We can coordinate and cooperate with that, and have a share market."

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL SERVICES

RFP NO. PUC08-01

OPENING DATE:  
April 11, 2008

CLOSING DATE:  
May 22, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission is soliciting proposals from qualified law firms or attorneys, licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth, to provide legal services on a part time or as needed basis over the one (1) term of this contract.

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

Viola Alepuyo  
Commissioner  
Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Office of the Governor  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Fax: (670) 233-8538  
E-mail: pucalepuyo@gmail.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Commission. All proposals shall become the property of the Commission.

/s/ Viola Alepuyo  
Chairperson

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REBECCA C. WHITE : CIVIL  
Plaintiff. : ACTION  
-v- : NO. 07-412

SOOK IN HAM and  
DONG KYU LEE, :

Defendants. :

### SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED  
DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court as Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 25th day of March, 2008:

Ramon K. Quichocho, Esq.  
CNMI Bar No. F0243  
LAW OFFICE OF RAMON K.  
QUICHOCHO, LLC  
2nd Floor, V.S. Sablan Building,  
Chalan Piao  
P.O. Box 505621  
Saipan, MP 96950  
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Fax: 670.234.8920  
Email: karissa129@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioners

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ) FCD-CN  
THE ADOPTION OF: ) Civil  
ESPERANZA MARIA ) Action  
MILAGRO ) No. 08-0175  
HALSTEAD CASTRO; )  
(BOB: 11/29/2003) ) NOTICE  
Minor ) OF  
BY: CANDIDO ) HEARING  
IGIBARA CASTRO )  
and VEMINDA )  
DIMAANO CASTRO; )  
Petitioners. )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 8, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

# JOETEN'S BEST BUYS OF THE WEEK!

April 18  
thru 23, 2008

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Benedict the diplomat

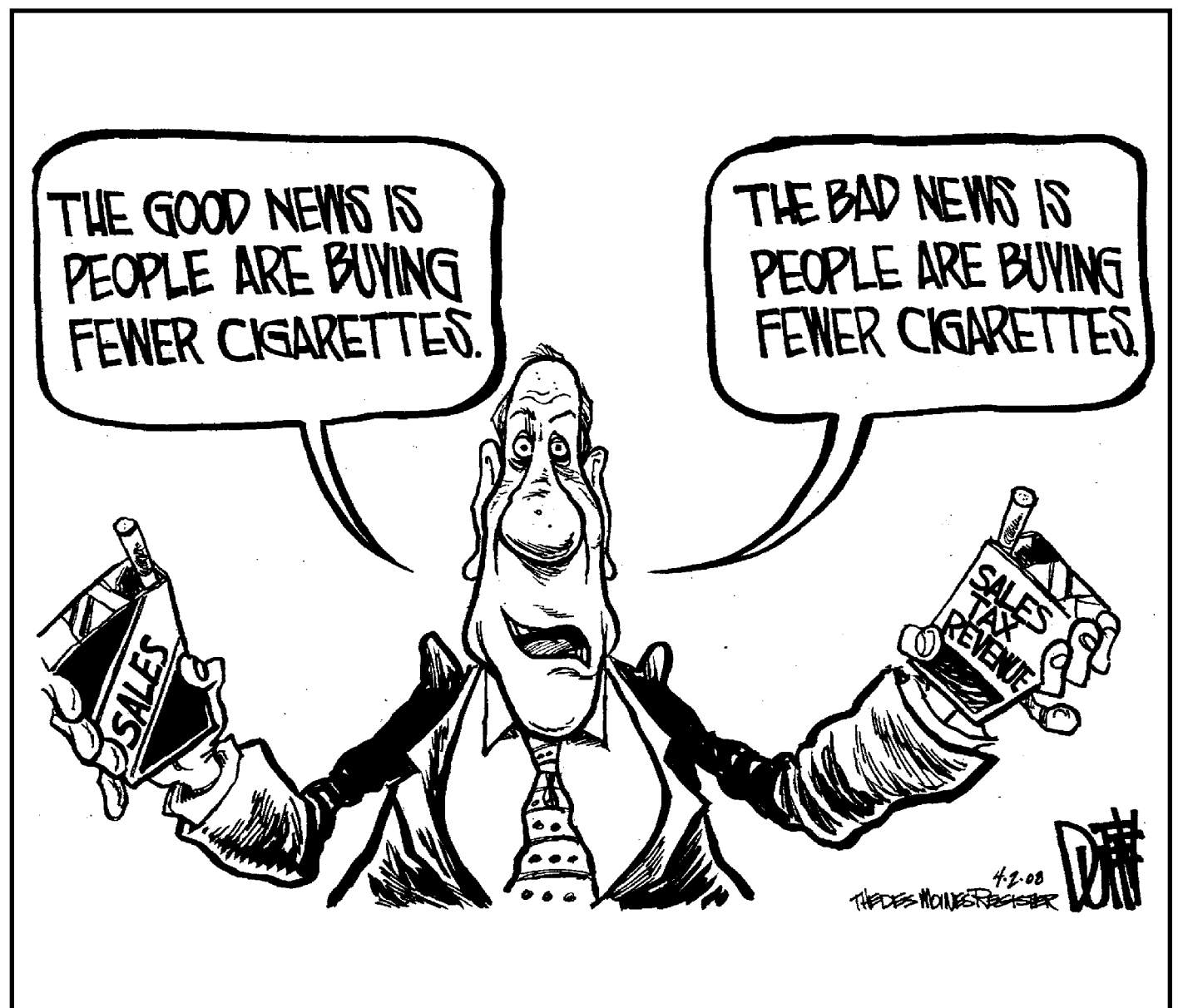
**T**he conventional wisdom about Pope Benedict XVI's first journey to the United States is that the pontiff is on two distinct missions: a pastoral visit to American Catholics and a diplomatic mission to the Bush administration, the international community and non-Christian religions. Actually, both aspects of the pope's visit will test his diplomatic skills.

In addressing the U.N. General Assembly on Friday, the pope will be speaking not only as the head of a state (albeit a tiny one) but as a moral and religious leader. Like his predecessors, he is likely to preach powerfully against war and economic inequality. But he also could profitably address the role of religious differences in conflicts from Darfur to the Middle East to Tibet. The pope offended many Muslims in 2006 when, as part of a university lecture on the relationship between faith and reason, he quoted a 14th century Byzantine emperor who said the prophet Muhammad was responsible for "things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached." To his credit, Benedict has encouraged dialogue between Christians and Muslims even as he has insisted that every individual has a God-given right to religious choice. He should acknowledge, however, that Christians too have wielded the sword in defense of their faith.

Paradoxically, the most exacting test of the pope's diplomatic skills may come in encounters with members of his own flock. Can he apologize for sexual abuse of young people by a minority of priests without further demoralizing clergy who have been faithful to their vows? Can he reaffirm the church's teaching against abortion without taking sides in the debate among American bishops about whether pro-choice Catholic politicians should be denied Holy Communion—and without seeming to insinuate himself into a presidential election in which a pro-life Republican will oppose a pro-choice Democrat?

The pope's diplomatic skills also will be tested when he addresses educators Thursday at the Catholic University of America in Washington. Like the late Pope John Paul II, Benedict is expected to insist that church-affiliated universities maintain their Catholic identity. Fair enough. But he should resist suggestions that he censure Catholic colleges that encourage robust debate even about such issues as abortion, homosexuality and women's rights. The pope has called America "a nation which values the role of religious belief in ensuring a vibrant and ethically sound democratic order." Outstanding Catholic universities both reflect and contribute to that democratic system.

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## Planning

*"The general who wins the battle makes many calculations in his temple before the battle is fought. The general who loses makes but few calculations beforehand." — Sun-Tzu*

**A**s an aircraft navigator, the U.S. Air Force invested over half-a-million dollars in me to be able to create detailed plans (flight plans) and ensure that our team (crew) followed the course so our objective (sortie) was achieved. I would spend several hours preparing the plan so I could brief the crew, and barring some mechanical malfunction or a major storm, we always accomplished the mission by applying specific principles. The same principles used in navigation to get from point "A" to point "B" are applicable to business situations and other disciplines.

However, it takes more than just having a plan to ensure success. After the successful invasion of Normandy, Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower was asked about the detailed planning process that went into the invasion. He made this comment: "Plans are nothing; planning is everything."

Eisenhower understood that plans were essential to victory, but he also knew that the moment the battle begins, the situation changes so much that the plan will be obsolete unless there is continual revision. It is the planning process of continually monitoring and updating that turns the plan into a living document. As a navigator, I was required to take a "fix" every 20 minutes to assess our current situation and then compare it with the planned course. This continual monitoring and course correction allowed us to stay within predetermined parameters and stay on course.

One of the things that the majority of businesses and practically every government entity in the CNMI lack is the ability to develop a cohesive strategic plan that guides decisions, and then monitor the situation so that their actions achieve a specific outcome. This, I believe, is the crux of most of our challenges.

The old adage, "when you fail to plan, you plan to fail," holds true here. Tactical thinking is used far too often to deal with the score of crises that continually emerge. Generally, with NO strategy, there is NO direction, NO plan to guide actions, NO implementation to get it done, NO metrics to monitor results, and NO accountability to hold individuals or entities responsible.

If you don't have a plan, trying to keep your organization moving may feel like you're riding a dead horse. The tribal wisdom of Dakota Indians says that when you discover you're riding a dead horse, the best decision is to dismount. However, in the CNMI, instead of planning for long-term solutions, we keep trying to fix our "dead horses" by: putting a Band-Aid on the dead horse; buying a stronger

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.org](http://www.bizresults.org)). They can be contacted at [rikv@bizresults.org](mailto:rikv@bizresults.org).



whip; changing riders; threatening the rider with termination or salary reductions unless things get better; arranging to travel to other places to see how they ride their dead horses; harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed; hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse; appointing a committee to study the dead horse; or promoting the dead horse.

Instead of riding the same, old dead horse, try creating a strategic plan to identify the type of living horse that will take you to your destination. There is a six P formula for success that states: "Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance." Proper prior planning forces you to organize your thoughts and identify key issues. It also allows you to identify possible obstacles that would keep you from accomplishing the plan.

Proper planning can save you a lot of time and expense by focusing your resources on the most important objectives, and avoiding those activities that would yield little results. Every hour spent in planning saves about ten hours in execution. Time management expert, Alec Mackenzie said: "Action without planning is the cause of every failure."

Spend time making your calculations before you enter the business battlefield. At the beginning of each day spend five to ten minutes planning what you want to accomplish and prioritizing your list. Take action and monitor your results so you can revise your plan if needed. Do this regularly and you will find that your proper prior planning produces powerful performance.

■ ■ ■

If you feel that your business could benefit from creating a powerful strategy and plan of action, we have a free report that will guide you through the strategic planning process. In addition, we're planning a meeting for business owners to brainstorm solutions to the most pressing problems facing businesses in the CNMI. If you are interested in the report or coming to the meeting, email us at [rikv@bizresults.org](mailto:rikv@bizresults.org).

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# The Dalai Lama as China’s pawn

By ELLIOT SPERLING  
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Dalai Lama’s rationale for keeping Tibet in China has always had a certain logic to it: China is a great country, and Tibet would benefit by being part of it. Alas, most of the benefit to being part of China on display in recent weeks has not been very tempting.

The fact is, despite displays of clear Tibetan nationalism and calls for Tibetan independence coming from Tibet, the Dalai Lama has long since made up his mind about Tibet’s future and will not be moved. And China has long since made up its mind about the Dalai Lama and—more seriously—has made very astute use of him.

Since the early 1970s, the Dalai Lama has had no desire to see Tibet independent, although he did not publicly acknowledge this changed position until 1988, when he offered a proposal for partial autonomy. Whatever hopes he may have had for a settlement with China on that basis have come to naught, however.

He started out by asking for “genuine autonomy,” with only defense and foreign affairs controlled by China, and over the years ratcheted down his position to “cultural autonomy.” In February, his prime minister said Tibetans wanted only the basic rights written into China’s law on nationality autonomy. But China decided years ago that it was simply better off without the Dalai Lama—that he always would be the symbol and focus of Tibetan nationalist aspirations, regardless of his stated position.

More important, China has been using the Dalai Lama’s political

naivete to manipulate him. His pronouncements against Tibetan independence have been rejected with assertions that he is insincere; that he has to restate his position sincerely. And he has done so, again and again, repeating these declarations to the world leaders who received him. Given the taint attached to China’s incorporation of Tibet into its territory in 1951, and Chinese spokespeople’s lack of credibility, the Dalai Lama effectively has been turned into China’s prime spokesman against Tibetan independence.

At the same time, he explains China’s repeated demands for him to renounce independence by saying that China simply doesn’t understand him.

This is sadly ludicrous. With legions of officials working on Tibetan affairs in Beijing, one can rest assured that each word of the Dalai Lama’s is parsed. It is the Dalai Lama’s exile government, short on resources and talent, that is hard-pressed to understand China and Chinese policies.

And so China handily makes use of the Dalai Lama to marginalize and portray as extremists those Tibetans who want to see an independent Tibet, no matter how nonviolent they may be, no matter how great a majority of the Tibetan population they may constitute. China thus bides its time, waiting for the 72-year-old Dalai Lama to die, whereupon it will select a new Dalai Lama, one educated within and loyal to China.

Ironically, the otherwise idealistic Dalai Lama’s materialist explanation of the way to deal with Tibetan discontent is a close cousin to the casual predictions bandied about only a few years ago: As investment in Tibet rose and Chinese migrants generated greater and

more diverse economic activity, trickle-down benefits would lead Tibetans to leave nationalism behind. This seemed a corollary to the 1990s dictum that economic development in China was effectively demolishing the possibilities of another Tiananmen Square show-down. China’s people, it often was said, had accepted a good life in exchange for the Communist Party’s right to rule by dictate.

Now that thinking all seems wrong. Indeed, the demonstrators this time are not simply the “usual suspects.” They are monks and nuns who by definition are outside the demographic expected to respond to offers of the good material life. Large numbers of laymen also are engaged in protests in disparate parts of the Tibetan plateau. Tibetan nationalism is not dead. Nor was it dying when money and migrants were pouring into Tibet.

It was not so difficult to see, actually. Signs from Tibet may have seemed passive at times, but they were anything but unambiguous. Tibetans, for example, largely refused to display pictures of China’s choice for Panchen Lama (another of Tibet’s important lamas; this one selected in opposition to the Dalai Lama’s choice).

So what of those prognostications now? Undoubtedly there will be much backtracking from pundits, attempts to provide another theory of the ephemeral nature of Tibetan nationalism—all while decrying cheap China bashing. But it’s too late. Tibetan nationalism simply won’t be theorized away. And China does have a very real black eye.

*Sperling directs the Tibetan studies program in Indiana University's Department of Central Eurasian Studies.*

## Letters to the Editor

### In defense of the national park proposal

I read John Gourley’s recent letters to the editor concerning the proposed “National Park of the Sea” and I feel that it is necessary to correct one of Mr. Gourley’s many misrepresentations on his personal campaign of misinformation.

The proposed park in the CNMI is modeled after the recently created Papahānaumokuākea Marine Monument recently created in Hawaii. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papah%C4%81naumoku%C4%81kea\\_Marine\\_National\\_Monument](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papah%C4%81naumoku%C4%81kea_Marine_National_Monument) It is now known as one of the new seven wonders of the natural world.

Mr. Gourley was there at a presentation of the PEW proposal for the establishment of a marine monument in the top three northern islands of the CNMI at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office. I also attended and I watched Angelo Villagomez hand Mr. Gourley a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal government and the State of Hawaii concerning the management of Papahānaumokuākea. The MOA outlines how the Federal government and the State government are to co-manage the area.

### My thoughts on Rota casino

Ever since the start of the formulation of the Rota casino, things are going off its natural paths of success. I watch and monitored the whole sequence of events. And am pretty disappointed with the outcome. This is to say that people have negative sentiments on the issues with respect on who should really be put in the commission. The Rota Mayor only puts his close friends and family members into the commission. Some of the municipal council are pretty much biased and supports

The MOA gives the state of Hawaii co-management over the waters from 0-50 miles. Before the MOA, the state of Hawaii managed from 0-3 miles. The state gained an extra 47 miles with the co-management agreement.

Under Pew’s current proposal, the CNMI would gain co-management over the waters from 0-200 miles. I understand this is a politically sensitive issue, but according to the 9th Circuit (and Mr. Gourley’s letter), we currently control nothing. We stand to gain 200 miles under a co-management agreement. The management details, as explained by Angelo, for the current monument would be worked out between the CNMI and the Federal government. As I understand it, the CNMI will also be provided with the means to patrol its own waters for the very first time. Wow!

I have provided just one correction to just one of Mr. Gourley’s misrepresentations. I encourage you to visit Jane Mack’s blog at <http://saipan-writer.blogspot.com> for a much more thorough breakdown of his letter.

I do not know why he opposes the PEW proposal. First, it does no harm; and will, if it goes through, be of great benefit to the people of the CNMI. The opportunity cost of letting this proposal slide, at a time in the CNMI history, when we need to take advantage of every great opportunity, would be a tragedy.

**Ken Kramer**  
*Fina Sisu*

**John Manibusan**  
*Fort Hood, Texas*

### Many benefits from national monument

There is a lot of talk in the community about the Pew Environmental Group and their proposal to create a “National Park of the Sea.” I have seen the presentation and as an indigenous fisherman, a father, and as someone who cares deeply about our islands, I can say that I fully support this project.

The CNMI has a long history of working with the Federal government on conservation issues. I know this because I spent my government career working with the Division of Environmental Quality, ultimately attaining the position of Director.

DEQ, CRM, and DFW are all funded by the federal government, but locally administered. Just drive by the DEQ office in Gualo Rai and count the number of trucks marked with “Federal Funded” on the door.

The CNMI has an opportunity to extend the protections granted to Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion by our Constitution to the waters surrounding those islands, most likely administered by locals and paid for with

### Heavy vibrations

That was the word I read describing the problem with engine number 8 at power plant one in the Wednesday paper. I am sitting here listening to the heavy vibration of the generator at work; something I have grown accustomed to over the years.

I found the articles on the power plant very informative, and then there was a letter from Mr. Cruz on the plant that motivated me to write this letter. According to my understanding we have four large capacity engines and four smaller capacity. Number 1, 4, 7 and 8 are out of service completely—2 small and 2 large capacity engines. Engines 5 and 6, the two remaining large capacity engines, are running at sub-capacity due to cooling issues. We had a failure yesterday because they overheated. Engine number 4 is a ghost now; it has been cannibalized for parts. The paper mentioned that money was found in December to repair the engines, \$6.5 million, from the federal government. CUC says they have signed agreements for \$5.6 million in repairs, with “rehabilitation” ongoing in 7 of 8 engines.

Does anyone besides me remember all the past rehabilitations? As Mr. Turbitt pointed out, does anyone really care? We passed a rate reduction recently to lower our costs at the CUC counter, now we have no power because there is not enough collected to cover fuel costs. The dog is chasing his tail, ever seen how long a dog will do that?

Mr. Cruz, I want to commend you on hitting the nail squarely on the head. Your actions have given many of us a first hand confirmation of what we suspected, and your comments and questions raised are to the point, relevant, and I feel accurate.

We can all sit around complaining to our families as we prepare our meals in the dark, figure ways to wash our kids

Federal dollars.

This is a win-win situation for our people and should be a no-brainer.

The closest island within the proposed marine park is over 300 miles away from Saipan. Not to say that some of us have never been up that far, but Chamorros and Carolinians are not going there regularly to fish. It is too far, too dangerous, and gas is just too expensive.

The only boats fishing there are illegal fishing boats from other Asian countries. The increased enforcement that would follow the creation of the park would help deter the illegal taking of our fish.

I encourage the people of the CNMI to look into this proposal. After getting all the facts, I suspect that most people will recognize that the proposed “Mariana Trench Marine Monument” will bring many benefits to the CNMI.

**Ignacio V. Cabrera**  
*Papago*






in the dark, I could go on. The point I wish to make is that it is fairly clear that the situation at CUC is grave. The past we cannot change. The present is draining our strength to persevere. The administration and the Legislature have failed us, I hate saying that but it is a practical truth. What can be done? Remember when Guam was having rolling blackouts, the power grid was failing? What happened down there? Why can’t we the people demand a series of public hearings to discuss the problems, hear the solutions by all the parties? I urge any group to come forward to get people a platform whereby we can come and register our input. There is a solution, there always is. There first has to be will, and a commitment to put aside differences, a commitment to make hard, painful, universally inclusive decisions for the benefit of not individuals but for the community. Fixing CUC is THE issue in the CNMI right now, not immigration, not education, not even healthcare. We have, according to the paper report, about 12,000 hours of operating time for the engines after rehabilitation. That is 1.3 years. Some experts out there, please correct me if I got it wrong. Point is, if we don’t find a workable solution we will have more of the same. That is a best-case scenario. We all have our own agendas, our own beliefs on this and other issues in the CNMI. This is the defining issue, the crux for the CNMI. I call on someone with the power and authority to initiate a series of public forums so WE—the “bitter ones,” the working class—can have OUR voices heard. So that we can start the process of real change. In the meantime, I will buy more candles.

**Jim Pitts**  
*As Mahetog, Saipan*

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

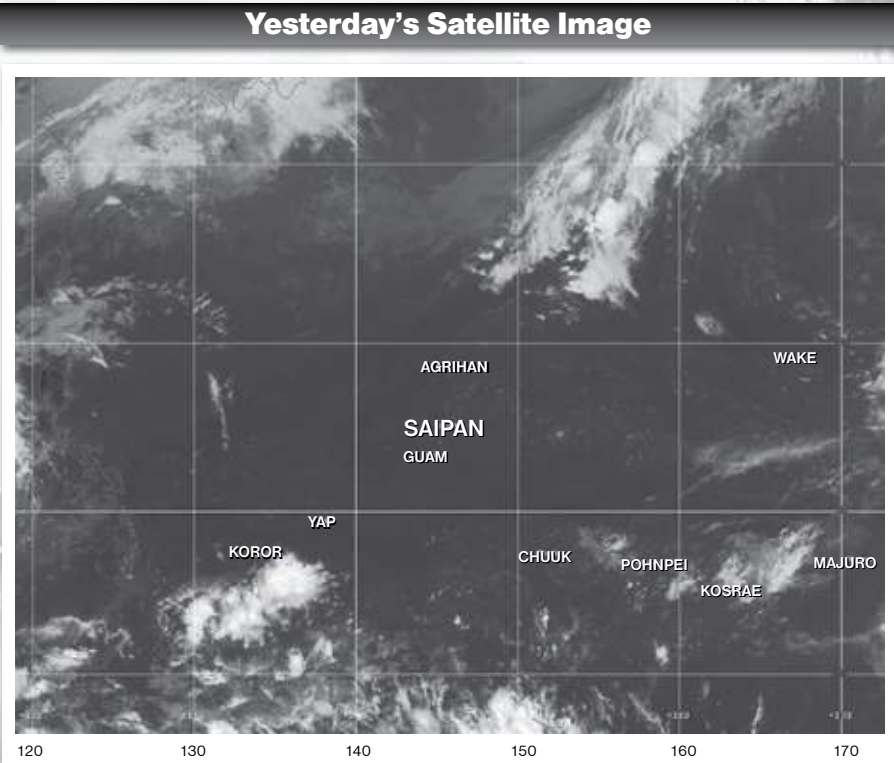
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼75°	▲83° ▼75°	▲83° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼74

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Cloudy	▲70 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲81 ▼53
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Honolulu	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼71
London	Cloudy	▲54 ▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲92 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼68
New York	Sunny	▲74 ▼54
Osaka	Rain	▲63 ▼58
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼38
Pusan	Rain	▲63 ▼54
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲64 ▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲74 ▼44
Tokyo	Showers	▲62 ▼55
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲74 ▼53

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
5:57AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:04PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergent winds coupled with an upper-level trough are triggering scattered showers north of 23N from 147E to 157E. A near-equatorial trough runs from 3N130E to a weak circulation centered at 4N133E to EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of a line from 7N137E to 3N130E. This area is south of Koror. A trough southeast of Majuro extending from EQ173E to 5N177E is producing scattered showers within about 100 miles of the trough. Trade wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 5N163E to 8N168E. This area is in the vicinity of Kosrae and south of Kwajalein.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:02AM	6:32PM	Today	3:59PM	3:43AM
Friday	6:01AM	6:32PM	Friday	4:47PM	4:18AM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:32PM	Saturday	5:35PM	4:53AM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:32PM	Sunday	6:23PM	5:28AM
Monday	5:59AM	6:32PM	Monday	7:13PM	6:06AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			<b>Rota-Saipan</b>		
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Saipan</b>		
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Saipan</b>		
NW 078	8:40am	2:00pm Daily via Nagoya	NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>		
NW 083	4:20pm	7:10pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>		
NW 078	8:40am	11:25am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Saipan</b>		
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b>			<b>Seoul-Saipan</b>		
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>			<b>Busan-Saipan</b>		
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Guam</b>		
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b>			<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b>		
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b>			<b>Hongkong-Guam</b>		
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			<b>Rota-Guam</b>		
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily	
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily	
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

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# Business

## Stocks rise in erratic trading after economic, earnings data

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Wall Street closed an erratic session moderately higher Tuesday after investors sorted through a mixed batch of data that included a rebound in New York manufacturing, signs of rising inflation and uneven first-quarter earnings. The market also had its eye on the rising price of crude oil.

Following a spate of disappointing readings on the economy, investors were pleased that the New York Federal Reserve

reported regional manufacturing expanded modestly in April, after shrinking at a record clip in March. The market had expected another contraction.

And in a positive sign for earnings, health care products maker Johnson & Johnson said its first-quarter profit jumped 40 percent on rising sales and declining costs. Results from the maker of consumer staples ranging from baby shampoo to pharmaceuticals came as a relief to investors, who have been un-

impressed by most first-quarter earnings so far.

Still, the market remains anxious about inflation. As crude oil prices surged to a record \$114 a barrel, and retail gasoline and diesel prices reached new highs, the Labor Department's Producer Price Index registered a much higher-than-anticipated 1.1 percent rise for March. The core index, which strips out food and energy prices, rose by 0.2 percent, as expected.

Core producer price increases

have slowed over the past three months, so most investors are not too worried that inflation will keep the Federal Reserve from lowering interest rates again if the economy weakens further. However, food and energy prices keep soaring, so consumers have been paring back their discretionary spending to afford necessities - and that is hurting some corporate profits.

"My guess is people are still really concerned about the inflation impact down the road. If oil

stays where it is, it's going to be a problem," said Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at RBC Dain Rauscher in Minneapolis.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 60.41, or 0.49 percent, at 12,362.47.

Broader stock indicators also advanced. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.11, or 0.46 percent, to 1,334.43, while the Nasdaq composite index added 10.22, or 0.45 percent, to 2,286.04.

## Crude oil at new high just above \$114

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Energy traders rewrote the record books again Tuesday, pushing oil futures past \$114 a barrel as gasoline and diesel prices struck new highs of their own at the pump.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery jumped as high as \$114.08 a barrel shortly after regular trading ended on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That is nearly \$2 above an intraday high set last week.

Concerns about insufficient global supply, stoked by a high-

profile report by the International Energy Agency that said Russian oil production dropped this year for the first time in a decade, was largely responsible for the surge. Oil prices rose as high as \$113.99 a barrel during the regular session before settling at \$113.79, up \$2.03 from Monday's record close of \$111.76 a barrel.

"In an emotionally driven market like we've got now, it just doesn't take much in the way of a headline to prompt a

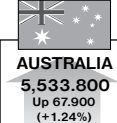
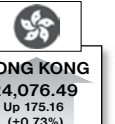
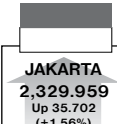
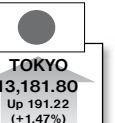
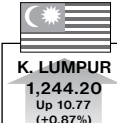
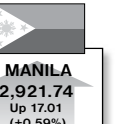
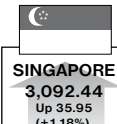
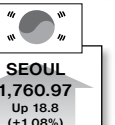
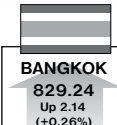
psychological response," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch & Associates in Galena, Ill.

Prices at the pump also charged ahead. Retail gasoline prices rose to a new average national record of \$3.386, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

Prices were highest in California, where mid-range and higher grades are now averaging more than \$4 a gallon.

Diesel prices at the pump jumped to \$4.119 a gallon, also a record, setting the stage for even higher prices on food and other goods transported by truck, ship and rail.

Prices are widely expected to keep rising as summer approaches. Gasoline futures jumped by nearly 6 cents to finish at a settlement record of \$2.881. That is less than a nickel below the all-time intraday high for the benchmark contract that was set as Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005.

STOCK Portfolio	
ASIAN MARKETS	
	<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 5,533.800 Up 67.900 (+1.24%)
	<b>HONG KONG</b> 24,076.49 Up 175.16 (+0.73%)
	<b>JAKARTA</b> 2,329.959 Up 35.702 (+1.56%)
	<b>TOKYO</b> 13,181.80 Up 191.22 (+1.47%)
	<b>K. LUMPUR</b> 1,244.20 Up 10.77 (+0.87%)
	<b>MANILA</b> 2,921.74 Up 17.01 (+0.59%)
	<b>SINGAPORE</b> 3,092.44 Up 35.95 (+1.18%)
	<b>SEOUL</b> 1,760.97 Up 18.8 (+1.08%)
	<b>BANGKOK</b> 829.24 Up 2.14 (+0.26%)

### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
12,362.47  
+60.41

**NASDAQ**  
2,286.04  
+10.22

**S&P**  
1,334.43  
+6.11

### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0796
British Pound	0.5098
Canadian Dollar	1.0219
Chinese Renmbi	6.997
Euro	0.6333
Hong Kong Dollar	7.795
Indian Rupee	39.969
Indonesian Rupiah	9200.5
Japanese Yen	101.625
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1628
New Zealand Dollar	1.2749
Philippine Peso	41.865
Singapore Dollar	1.3567
South Korean Won	991.8
Swiss Franc	1.0077
Taiwan Dollar	30.255
Thailand Baht	31.565

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Wholesale prices soared in March

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Inflation at the wholesale level soared in March at nearly triple the rate that had been forecast as energy prices kept rising and food costs posted a much bigger jump than anticipated. The Labor Department reported Tuesday that wholesale prices rose by 1.1 percent last month, the largest increase since a 2.6 percent rise last November. The November gain in the Producer Price Index was the biggest one-month jump in 33 years. Analysts had expected a much more moderate 0.4 percent rise in wholesale prices for the month. However, food costs, which had fallen by 0.5 percent in February, leapt by 1.2 percent last month, propelled upward by big gains in vegetables and beef and the biggest increase in rice prices in more than five years. Those were far higher increases in food prices than expected.

#### Intel 1Q sales, sunny guidance surprise Wall Street

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Investors knew Intel Corp.'s profits would fall sharply in the first quarter because memory-chip prices had slid. What surprised Wall Street was how well the chip maker's core business in microprocessors held up. Intel's shares jumped more than 8 percent Tuesday after the technology bellwether reported first-quarter profits that matched analysts' subdued expectations, along with sales that were slightly better than estimates and topped the company's first-quarter record. A sunny forecast that kept profit-margin predictions for 2008 intact also helped boost the stock by signaling that the Santa Clara-based company expects to protect its profits despite falling memory-chip prices and fears of a slowdown in technology spending.

#### Ghostwriters for medical research criticized, reforms urged

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Two new reports involving the painkiller Vioxx raise fresh concerns about how drug companies influence the interpretation and publication of medical research. The reports claim Merck & Co. frequently paid academic scientists to take credit for research articles prepared by company-hired medical writers, a practice called ghostwriting. They also contend Merck tried to minimize deaths in two studies that showed that the now withdrawn Vioxx didn't work at treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease. Merck called the reports in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association false and misleading. Five writers of the articles were paid consultants for people who sued Merck over Vioxx's heart and stroke risks; the sixth testified about Merck and Vioxx's heart risks before a Senate panel. Merck says those connections makes the reports themselves biased.



A Northwest plane is seen parked as travelers wait for their flight Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Detroit.

## Airline combos could mean higher prices, fewer choices

**PHOENIX (AP)** -- Getting hitched may be the right move for Delta and Northwest. But for beleaguered air travelers, it could usher in an era of higher fares, fewer flights, more confusion at the airport and even more crowded planes.

The merger could kick off a wave of airline consolidation. And while the effects would not be immediate because the combinations could take months to get regulatory approval, industry observers say get ready anyway for fewer carriers in the sky.

"It's not an industry that works," said Mark Cooper, director of research for the Consumer Federation of America, who lobbied Congress against a bid by US Airways for Delta last year.

"We're now getting to the

point where there are so few carriers left, and they still can't make money," he said.

Mergers, combined with a recent spate of airline bankruptcies, mean passengers in many cities can expect fewer flights to choose from, and they'll be packed even fuller than they are now.

Greater demand for remaining seats translates into higher ticket prices.

"There's no doubt in my mind fares are going to go up," said Rick Seaney, chief executive of FareCompare.com, which tracks changes in airline ticket prices. "Consumers are deluding themselves if they think that's not the case."

Peter Schiff, president of brokerage firm Euro Pacific Capital, said the changes could put

air travel out of reach for Americans of modest means.

"Although many Americans have come to regard affordable air travel as a birthright, from a global perspective it remains the province of the wealthy," Schiff said.

That could mean more headaches for travelers already reeling from a string of cancellations due to stepped-up scrutiny of safety regulations by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The merger announcement by Northwest Airlines Corp. and Delta Air Lines Inc., which would create the world's largest airline, has already ignited talks among other airlines as they seek to bulk up to combat rising fuel prices in a slowing economy.

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### State Department warns diplomats of compulsory Iraq duty

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The State Department is warning U.S. diplomats they may be forced to serve in Iraq next year and says it will soon start identifying prime candidates for jobs at the Baghdad embassy and outlying provinces, according to a cable obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. A similar call-up notice last year caused an uproar among foreign service officers, some of whom objected to compulsory work in a war zone, although in the end the State Department found enough volunteers to fill the jobs. Now, the State Department anticipates another staffing crisis.

### Man arrested in pregnant girlfriend's shooting sobs in court

ROCKVILLE, Conn. (AP) -- A sex offender accused of shooting his pregnant girlfriend in front of their two children told police the gun went off accidentally during an argument, according to a police report released Tuesday. Police responded to the Bidwell Tavern parking lot in Coventry on Monday afternoon on a report of a blood-spattered man threatening to kill himself while holding his 2-year-old son. Police said the man, Alfredo Ferrer, put the gun in his mouth at one point. Authorities said Ferrer, 43, told them during a standoff that he shot his girlfriend at their apartment near the restaurant. Officers said they eventually subdued him with a stun gun, and the child was taken to a hospital but appeared unharmed. His other child, who neighbors said is 5, also was with him, witnesses said.

### Wildfires kill 3, forces evacuation of small Colorado town

ORDWAY, Colo. (AP) -- Wildfires in warm, windy weather burned into a southeast Colorado town and on an Army post Tuesday, and a firefighting pilot and two other people died. All 1,100 residents of the town of Ordway were told to leave, authorities said. Crowley County sheriff's deputy Bill Hamilton said late Tuesday he didn't immediately have details on the two deaths. The pilot died when the crop duster-type plane crashed along a highway just east of Fort Carson, said Mike Fergus of the Federal Aviation Administration. A fire there had burned about 1,000 acres. Much of the state was under a National Weather Service red flag warning, signifying high fire danger. Gov. Bill Ritter declared a state of emergency, freeing up state resources to help fight the fire.

## Images show police well armed for raid on polygamist retreat

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Police wore body armor, toted automatic weapons and were backed by an armored personnel carrier for a raid on a West Texas polygamist retreat, photos and video released Tuesday show.

Four still photos and a slice of video were released to The Associated Press by Rod Parker, spokesman for the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which owns the raided Yearning for Zion Ranch near San Angelo in Eldorado.

Sect members took the photos and video during the first few days of a seven-day raid that involved police agencies from six counties, the Texas Rangers, the state highway patrol and wildlife officers. Authorities were looking for a teenage girl who had reported being abused by her 50-year-old husband.

A sect member whose wife shot the video said sect members got the impression that state officials "were doing something more than they said they were going to do." The man declined to give his name for fear that speaking out would cause problems for his children, who are in state custody.

Tela Mange, a state Department of Public Safety spokes-

woman, said officers are trained to protect themselves.

"Whenever we serve a search warrant, no matter where or when, we are always as prepared as possible so we can ensure the operational safety of the officers serving the warrant, as well as the safety of those who are on the property in question," Mange said.

The armored car was precautionary and designed to remove someone from the property, not to force entry onto the ranch, she said.

Parker said rumors have circulated since the 1950s that the FLDS would respond with violence to threats on their way of life. "It's never been substantiated at all. Nobody who knows these people could possibly believe that," he said.

"It's not in their nature," he said.

Parker said that if there was any suggestion that the FLDS would respond to police with violence, there would have been a cache of firearms found during the raid. "Instead they responded by singing and praying," he said.

While there were hunting rifles at the ranch, search warrants filed in district court in Tom Green County don't show that police seized any weapons.

## Pope lands in US, vows to fight clergy sex abuse



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush greet Pope Benedict XVI as he arrives at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Tuesday, April 15, 2008. AP

**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md.** (AP) -- Pope Benedict XVI stepped onto U.S. soil for the time as pontiff Tuesday, arriving to a presidential handshake and wild cheering only

hours after he admitted that he is "deeply ashamed" of the clergy sex abuse scandal that has devastated the American church.

Benedict gave hundreds of spectators a two-handed wave

as he stepped off a special Alitalia airliner that brought him from Rome. Students from a local Catholic school screamed ecstatically when they saw the pope, who shook hands warmly

## Bush to announce goal for stopping greenhouse emissions

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Bush, stepping into the debate over global warming, plans to announce on Wednesday a national goal for stopping the growth of greenhouse gas emissions over the next few decades.

In a speech in the Rose Garden, Bush will lay out a strategy rather than a specific proposal for curbing emissions, White House press secretary Dana Perino said Tuesday. She did not disclose details of his announcement and would not say whether the president

would propose any kind of mandatory cap on greenhouse gas emissions.

The president wants every major economy, including fast-growing nations like China and India, to establish a national goal for cutting the emissions believed responsible for global warming.

In his remarks, Perino said, Bush will articulate a "realistic intermediate goal" for the United States. Bush will emphasize the importance of offering incentives to promote

technology as an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

Bush's announcement is expected to go beyond what he said in 2002. Then, he set a goal of reducing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, while taking into account economic expansion. His critics argued that would still allow actual emissions to rise as the economy grew.

The White House search for a new climate proposal comes amid growing indication that

with President Bush, first lady Laura Bush and their daughter Jenna on the tarmac.

Hundreds of onlookers, some from local Roman Catholic parishes, clapped and shouted as they watched the scene from nearby bleachers.

Benedict tackled the most painful issue facing the U.S. Catholic Church - clergy sex abuse - on his flight to America. The U.S. church has paid out \$2 billion in abuse costs since 1950, most of that in just the last six years.

Seemingly in a nod to his American flock, the pope spoke in English as he answered questions submitted in advance by reporters.

"It is a great suffering for the church in the United States and for the church in general and for me personally that this could happen," Benedict said. "It is difficult for me to understand how it was possible that priests betray in this way their mission ... to these children."

"I am deeply ashamed, and we will do what is possible so this cannot happen again in the future," the pope said. Benedict pledged that pedophiles would not be priests in the Catholic Church.

"I do not wish to talk at this moment about homosexuality, but about pedophilia, which is another thing," he said.

"We will absolutely exclude pedophiles from the sacred ministry. It is more important to have good priests than many priests. We will do everything possible to heal this wound."

mandatory action to address global warming is highly likely - if not now, in the next year or so. At the same time, the administration is facing growing pressure to regulate carbon dioxide under the federal clean air law.

The Environmental Protection Agency has been told by the Supreme Court that carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, is a pollutant and must be regulated if the EPA determines it is a danger to health and welfare.

## Gov't raises safety questions about chemical in plastics

WASHINGTON (AP)—A chemical used to make baby bottles and other shatterproof plastic containers could be linked to a range of hormonal problems, a preliminary government report has found.

The report was greeted by some environmental groups as confirmation of their concerns, while chemical makers latched on to the report's preliminary nature and its authors' warning against drawing overly worrisome conclusions.

The federal National Toxicology Program said Tuesday that

experiments on rats found precancerous tumors, urinary tract problems and early puberty when the animals were fed or injected with low doses of the plastics chemical bisphenol A.

While such animal studies only provide "limited evidence" of bisphenol's developmental risks, the group's draft report stresses the possible effects on humans "cannot be dismissed." The group is made up of scientists from the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration and the Institutes of Health.

More than 90 percent of Americans are exposed to trace amounts of bisphenol, according to the CDC. The chemical leaches out of water bottles, the lining of cans and other items made with it.

The American Chemistry Council, which represents manufacturers, said the report "affirms that there are no serious or high level concerns for adverse effects of bisphenol on human reproduction and development." Among the manufacturers of bisphenol are Dow Chemical Co. and BASF Group.

The group said it supports ad-

ditional research to determine whether adverse effects seen in animals "are of any significance to human health."

Environmentalists, meanwhile, hailed the report as the first step toward reassessing a chemical they believe could contribute to cancer and other health problems.

"We're hoping this decision will force FDA to recognize the toxicity of this chemical and make manufacturers set a safety standard that's protective of the most vulnerable populations," said Dr. Anila Jacob of the Environmental Working Group.

## Asia

# 17 killed as train crashes into bus

**TANGAIL, Bangladesh** (AP)—A train plowed through a packed bus at a railway crossing in central Bangladesh on Wednesday, killing at least 17 people and injuring 19 others, a government official said.

The pre-dawn accident oc-

curred at an unmanned crossing in Tangail district, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Dhaka, local government administrator Akhtar Ali Sarkar said.

All of the victims were aboard the bus, which was carrying weavers to a local mar-

ket to sell garments.

Sarkar said the injured were taken to hospital — three of them in serious condition.

There was no major damage to the Ekota Express train, Bangladesh Railway spokesman Shafiqul Alam Khan said.

Khan said the train originated in the northern town of Dinajpur and that it reached its

final stop, Dhaka, a few hours after the accident.

Authorities were investigat-

ing how the collision happened, Khan said. He provided no further details.

## Ex-rebels surprise observers in vote

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP) -- Nepal's former rebels surprised observers Tuesday by winning more than half of the directly elected seats where counting was complete in an assembly that will shape the Himalayan nation's political future.

The former insurgents, now known as the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), had won 114 of the 212 directly elected seats by morning, the Election Commission said. The remaining 33 races for directly elected seats have not yet been declared.

Re-voting was held in six of the constituencies Tuesday and there were no reports of violence in those areas, the commission said. New voting was ordered mainly because of clashes between rival groups and allegations of polling irregularities.

Final results for the 601-seat Constituent Assembly, which will govern Nepal and rewrite the country's constitution, are still a few weeks off, but officials say they should have a clearer picture of what it will look like later this week.

The centrist Nepali Congress

party had won 31 seats and the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) had 28, the commission said.

Nepal's election last Thursday was to choose 240 members of the assembly. A further 335 were being selected through a system in which political parties are given seats in proportion to the percentage of votes they received. Another 26 seats were to be nominated by the government.

The former rebels, widely called Maoists, are almost certain to capture more than half of the 240 directly elected seats, and are doing well in the early count for the 335 proportional representation seats.

In that tally, they have garnered about 394,000 of the 1.3 million votes counted so far. About 10.5 million proportional representation ballots were cast and clear results from that part of the election are not expected until later this week or early next week.

The Maoists' strong early showing has surprised most observers, who had expected them to place third behind the traditionally powerful Nepali

Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist).

The 10-year communist insurgency ended in 2006 when the Maoists agreed to join the political mainstream, but the United States still considers them a terrorist organization.

Separately, Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat was attacked at a victory rally in his village, allegedly by Maoist supporters, said Bhanu Bhakta Pokhrel, the chief administrator of Nuwakot district.

Mahat, a Nepali Congress member who won his constituency, suffered minor head injuries and was released from a hospital in Katmandu after receiving treatment, Pokhrel said.

Four policemen guarding Mahat were also injured in the assault in Nuwakot, about 50 miles north of Katmandu, he said.

Pokhrel said Mahat was involved in an argument with Maoists a day earlier. Maoist officials in Nuwakot could not immediately be reached for comment, and those reached in Katmandu had no information on the incident.

## Explosives seized at Tibetan monasteries, agency says

**BEIJING** (AP)—Police seized explosives, a gun and banned Tibetan flags during searches of six monasteries in Tibetan areas of northwest China, a state news agency reported Tuesday.

The inspections were carried out Monday in Hezuo town of Gansu province, the Xinhua News Agency said. The town is in a Tibetan area that was the site of protests after Buddhist monk-led demonstrations in Tibet's capital of Lhasa turned violent last month.

Separately, well-known Tibetan entertainer Jamyang Kyi was seized Chinese security forces in the wake of last month's anti-government protests, her husband Lamao Jia, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. He said she has not been seen since April 7.

U.S.-government supported

Radio Free Asia cited unidentified sources in Beijing saying she had been formally arrested by police in the western city of Xining, although the charges were unknown.

The Chinese security services in recent weeks have been questioning large numbers of Tibetans who have traveled internationally, RFA said.

In the seizures, a gun, 22 pounds of dynamite, five detonators and seven knives were found at one major monastery in the town, Xinhua said, citing the provincial government. Five bullets were found in another.

In nearby Xiahe county, police seized 11 Tibetan national flags from four monasteries, the agency said.

China has previously reported seizing weapons from monasteries but does not offer proof

besides police displays of guns and swords that were allegedly confiscated. The reports are impossible to verify.

But they build on Beijing's claims that anti-government protests in Tibet and other parts of western China were part of a violent campaign by Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and his supporters to overthrow Chinese rule in Tibet and sabotage the August's Olympic Games in Beijing. The Dalai Lama has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Scholars say China's accusations help the government justify its crackdown and demonize the opposition while driving a wedge between the government-in-exile and groups that have challenged the Dalai Lama's policy of nonviolence.



An arrested Tibetan shouts slogans from inside a police van during a demonstration outside the Chinese consulate in Katmandu, Nepal, Tuesday, April 15, 2008. AP

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Report: Bus plunges into canal in India, killing at least 15

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—A media report says that a bus plunged into a canal in western India, killing at least 15 people, mostly school children. Vijay Nehra, a local government official, tells the Press Trust of India that four children were rescued after the accident early Wednesday near Vadodara city in Gujarat state. The news agency reports there were between 40 to 50 passengers aboard the bus. Nehra says 15 bodies have been recovered so far.

#### Myanmar detains at least 20 activists

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—Myanmar's military junta detained more than 20 activists as they walked through the northwestern city of Sittwe in a peaceful rally against the country's proposed constitution, an opposition party spokesman said Tuesday. Meanwhile, Myo Nyunt, a youth member of the opposition party and a close aide of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, was arrested at his grandmother's home near Yangon, said Nyan Win, spokesman for the National League for Democracy. He was taken from his home near Yangon on Tuesday morning. He was given a 15-day prison sentence by a court for failing to report to authorities when he spent a night at someone else's house, Nyan Win said.

#### Philippine rebel clash

#### leaves 3 dead

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Officials say army troops have clashed with communist rebels in the northern Philippines, leaving three people dead. Army Maj. Randolph Cabang-bang says an army platoon on patrol caught up Tuesday with 20 New People's Army rebels in Quezon province's General Nakar town, triggering a battle that killed two rebels and a soldier. He says troops recovered the bodies of two slain rebels and captured two others, one of whom was wounded. A soldier and two civilians were also wounded.

#### SKorea chief says threats from north don't faze him

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said he will not be fazed by menacing comments from North Korea, according to a statement from his office. Lee made the remark Tuesday in New York during a meeting with Korean-Americans, his office said. Lee has faced a tide of rhetoric threatening attacks on the South and insulting him personally. Unlike his liberal predecessors, Lee opposes unconditional assistance and calls for the North's nuclear disarmament as a condition for economic cooperation. "Unlike in the past, there will be nothing like aiding and negotiating with North Korea because of menacing remarks," Lee said in the meeting.

## China demands apology from CNN over comments

**BEIJING** (AP)—China demanded an apology from CNN on Tuesday after network commentator Jack Cafferty called the country's leaders a "bunch of goons and thugs" and said its products were "junk."

It was the latest flare-up after Beijing accused Western media of bias in its reporting following violent protests in the Tibetan capital last month. Atlanta-based CNN has been singled out by some Chinese who say overseas news outlets are smearing Beijing.

"We are shocked and strongly condemn the vicious remarks

by Cafferty," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said. "We solemnly request CNN and Cafferty himself take back the malicious remarks and apologize to the Chinese people."

Cafferty made the remarks during an appearance on CNN's daily political news program, "The Situation Room," that aired April 9, according to a transcript posted on CNN's Web site.

He was speaking about the U.S. trade deficit with China when he said, according to the transcript, "We continue to import their junk with the lead

paint on them and the poisoned pet food and export, you know, jobs to places where you can pay workers a dollar a month to turn out the stuff that we're buying from Wal-Mart."

"So I think our relationship with China has certainly changed," he continued. "I think they're basically the same bunch of goons and thugs they've been for the last 50 years."

Network spokeswoman Edie Emery at CNN headquarters in Atlanta pointed out that Cafferty made a clarification Monday on "The Situation Room."

## World

# Plane veers off runway in Congo, bursts into flames

**GOMA, Congo (AP)**—A Congolese jetliner carrying 79 passengers and crew crashed on takeoff Tuesday, careening off a runway into a busy neighborhood and bursting into flames. At least 21 people were killed, but most of those aboard survived, an airline official said.

U.N. peacekeepers and crew members struggled to evacuate the aircraft before the DC-9 went up in flames near a bustling outdoor market.

"The crew managed to save the majority of the passengers with the help" of peacekeepers, said Dirk Cramers, a spokesman for the private Congolese company Hewa Bora Airways.

The remains of the cockpit and tail rose over the flattened fuselage. Rescue workers with tractors, trucks and shovels searched for survivors as the peacekeepers sprayed the wreckage with hoses.

Cramers put the death toll at 21 and said "most of the victims were people on the ground."

The airline is "still trying to count the number of victims and wounded, but until now none of the 79 people on the official list of passengers and crew have been found dead," he said.

The Red Cross said 113 peo-



This image released by Nation Geographic shows rescue workers and onlookers at the site of a plane crash in Goma, Congo Tuesday April 15 2008.

ple had been injured and were being treated in local hospitals and clinics.

Witnesses reported many

bodies at the crash site in this city in eastern Congo.

"We have already picked up many bodies - dozens of bodies.

There are a lot of flames, which makes it difficult to know if the bodies we are picking up are those of passengers of the plane

or else passers-by or people that lived in the area where the plane crashed," said regional Gov. Julien Mpaluku.

Rescue workers carried about 20 bodies, many on stretchers, Anna Ridout of the aid agency World Vision said.

"I talked to a man who rescued seven people, including a 6-month-old baby, from an exit door. They were still conscious and moving," Ridout said. "But he couldn't go any further because he couldn't see anything. There was too much smoke."

Congo, which is struggling to emerge from a 1998-2002 civil war, has experienced more fatal crashes since 1945 than any other African country, according to the nonprofit Aviation Safety Network.

Last week, the European Union added Hewa Bora to its list of airlines banned from flying in the EU.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Alison Duquette said no Congolese airlines now fly into the U.S., although they are not banned from doing so.

World Vision, whose staffers when to the scene about a half-mile from its office, said in a statement that the plane "failed to leave the ground," plowing "through wooden houses and shops in the highly populated Birere market."

## Bombings kill nearly 60 in Sunni areas of Iraq

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Bombings blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq tore through market areas in Baghdad and outside the capital on Tuesday, killing nearly 60 people and shattering weeks of relative calm in Sunni-dominated areas.

The bloodshed—in four cities as far north as Mosul and as far west as Ramadi—struck directly at U.S. claims that the Sunni insurgency is waning and being replaced by Shiite militia violence as a major threat.

The deadliest blasts took place in Baqouba and Ramadi, two cities where the U.S. military has claimed varying degrees of success in getting Sunnis to turn against al-Qaida.

In Baqouba, the Diyala provincial capital 35 miles northeast of the capital, a parked car exploded about 11:30 a.m. in front of a restaurant across the street from the central courthouse and other government offices.

Many of the victims were on their way to the court, at the restaurant or in cars passing through the area. A man identifying himself as Abu Sarmad had just ordered lunch.

"I heard a big explosion and hot wind threw me from my chair to outside the restaurant," he said from his hospital bed.

The force of the blast jolted the concrete barriers erected along the road to protect the

courthouse, witnesses said.

At least 40 people were killed and 70 wounded, according to hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

The U.S. military in northern Iraq gave a slightly lower toll, saying 35 Iraqi citizens were killed, including a policeman, and 66 wounded. It said the blast destroyed three buses and damaged 10 shops.

AP Television News footage showed many of the bodies covered in crisp white sheets and black plastic bags in a hospital courtyard while the emergency room inside was overwhelmed

with the wounded.

It was the deadliest bombing in Iraq since March 6, when a twin bombing killed 68 people in a crowded shopping district in the central Baghdad district of Karadah. The attack was also the deadliest in Baqouba since The Associated Press began tracking Iraqi casualties in late April 2005.

The U.S. military said Tuesday that attacks in Baqouba have dropped noticeably since last June. But a series of assassinations and other high-profile attacks have occurred in and around the city this year, and American commanders have consistently warned that al-Qaida-led insurgents continue to pose a serious danger.

## Ex-leader recalls Warsaw Ghetto uprising

**LODZ, Poland (AP)**—Marek Edelman, the last surviving commander of the 1943 uprising in the Warsaw ghetto by a handful of scrappy, poorly armed Jews against the Nazi army, becomes emotional when he speaks of the fighters he led.

"I remember them all—boys and girls—220 altogether, not too many to remember their faces, their names," says the 89-year-old doctor, who still works in a Lodz hospital. Edelman will lay a wreath in their honor at the Monument to the Heroes of the Ghetto on Saturday, the 65th anniversary of the uprising.

The Nazis walled off the ghetto in November 1940, cramming 400,000 Jews from across Poland

into a 760-acre section of the capital in inhuman conditions. On April 19, 1943, German troops started to liquidate the ghetto by sending tens of thousands of its residents to death camps.

Several hundred young Jews took up arms in defense of the civilians—the first act of large-scale armed civilian resistance against the Germans in occupied Poland during World War II.

"It was the first, most important and most spectacular" instance of Jewish armed resistance to the Nazi Holocaust, said Andrzej Zbikowski, head of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Edelman said the Nazis "wanted to destroy the

people, and we fought to protect the people in the ghetto, to extend their life by a day or two or five."

Then 24 years old, Edelman took command of one of the revolt's three groups. His fighters, between the ages of 13 and 22, scraped together guns and ammunition that they and the Polish resistance managed to smuggle in from the outside.

His brigade included 50 fighters known as "brush men" because their base was a brush factory.

"There weren't enough guns, ammunition. There was not enough food, but we were not starving. You can live for three weeks just on water and sugar," which they found in the homes of those deported to death camps, he said.

## Many Haitians want exiled Aristide back

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**—Haiti's president has lowered rice prices and the Senate has sacked the prime minister. But hungry Haitians who rioted over food prices still want more.

"Aristide or death! Aristide or death!" young men in sunglasses and low-slung ballcaps chant outside parliament.

That's right, Jean-Bertrand Aristide - the slum priest-turned-president who needed a U.S. intervention to restore him to power in 1994, and who accuses Washington of kidnapping him into exile a decade later as the country descended into political chaos.

The clamor for Aristide's return was deafening during last week's unrest over skyrocketing food prices that left at least seven people dead, hundreds injured and Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis out of a job. Some protesters vowed to press on until they unseat President Rene Preval, a former Aristide ally.

Experts say it is unlikely that Aristide engineered the protests from exile in South Africa. But people living in Port-au-Prince slums say workers for a prominent Aristide loyalist went door-to-door drumming up support for the peaceful protests, some of which spiraled into violence as criminal gangs seized the opportunity to loot stores.

Either way, Aristide's return has become a key demand on the streets after entire slums rallied for the former president and protesters carried tree branches they said signified their support for his Fammi Lavalas party.

"If there were an election in Haiti, Aristide would win," said Mario Jeanty, a Haitian who lives in New York. "There's no one who can beat him."

Aristide's smiling, bespectacled face is everywhere in the poor areas of Port-au-Prince, from paintings sold on roadsides to photographs pasted onto cell phones. Blocks from the presidential palace, graffiti declares: "King Aristide will return" and "Down with Preval, long live Aristide."

"Whether or not one likes Aristide, he remains a force in this country because the masses remain very attached to him," said Patrick Elie, who has served as an adviser to both Aristide and now Preval.



Marek Edelman, the only living commander of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Lodz, Poland, in this Feb. 6, 2008 file photo.

# Environment

## Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair a huge success



Rota Junior High School Talakhaya Watershed Fair winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **LIHLA NOORI**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In commemoration of International Year of the Reef 2008, on March 14th Sinapalo Elementary School and Rota Junior

tro, Coral Reef Point of Contact and DEQ's Non Point Source Pollution branch manager, and Kathleen Hermann, CNMI's New Coral Reef Management Fellow and the incoming Talakhaya Project Coordinator,

HUNTERS DON'T BURN."

Under Division of Environmental Quality auspices, the Talakhaya project has been in existence for three years. The project aims to reduce soil erosion and pollutants from drain-

ing into the reef while engaging the community in its restoration. This PSS partnership was an education initiative to involve the community, promote coral reef conservation, and the concept of wildfire effects to the coral



Talakhaya Watershed Project personnel and Science Fair judges, from left, Gary Toves, Lihla Noori, James Manglona, Kathleen Hermann, Isaac Calvo, and France Castro.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High School teamed up with the Talakhaya Revegetation Project for the 1st annual Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair. Following a watershed and coral reef orientation from project staff in December 2007, about 230 students in grades 4 through 9 researched a variety of topics related to the theme: "Watersheds: Protecting our Land and Sea". From January 2008 to March 2008, the students constructed display boards, presentations, and models to best present the findings of their research topic. Using the scientific method and scoring rubric, they created a science project that was categorized as Life Science, Physical Science or Earth Science.

Five distinguished judges related to the natural resource field and involved in the Talakhaya Project acted as judges for the fair. From Saipan, Frances Cas-

traveled to Rota to be judges for the fair. From Rota, Isaac Calvo of the Luta Soil and Water Conservation District, James Manglona of DLNR Forestry, responsible for the technical lead of the project, and Gary Toves of DEQ-Rota who conducts all water quality data for the project, spent the entire day scoring 80 team projects from RJHS, and 25 team projects from SES.

Last week both schools conducted award ceremonies where certificates were distributed and DEQ presented awards for the highest ranking projects, based on an average of all the judges' scores. Mayor of Rota-provided Channel 5 was also there to film the entire event, highlighting each of the student's projects and awards ceremonies and helping to share the message with the community "REAL



Rota Junior High School Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair 6th, 7th & 8th grade winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### AWARDS LIST

#### *Winners in the Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair held March 14, 2008, on Rota*

##### **SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**4th Grade- Overall:** Noah Quitugua & Thomas Manglona II  
**Earth Science 1st:** Noah Quitugua & Thomas Manglona II; 2nd Meriden Hocog & Shai Calvo; 3rd Mary Jane Sikebert & Georma Barcinas  
**Life Science 1st:** Antonette Sabangan; 2nd Roberta Ogo, Marilou Masga & Mary Fujihira; 3rd Clo Cuizon & Raenna Aldabe  
**Physical Science 1st:** Raccine Hizon & Deann Apatang; 2nd Jada Aldan & Suabi Barcinas  
**5th Grade Overall:** Beda Mundo Kelina Hocog & Franory Lynn Mesngon  
**Earth Science 1st:** Micca King, Garrie Ann Toves & Sierra Valdez; 2nd Reann Camacho, Melissa Velarde, Nesia Aguon & Perrijane Taimanao; 3rd BriAnnie Taimanao, Casia Barcinas & Neri Jingco  
**Physical Science 1st:** Beda Mundo Kelina Hocog & Franory Lynn Mesngon

##### **ROTA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**6th Grade-Overall:** Bianca Toves  
**Earth Science 1st:** Bianca Toves; 2nd Audrey Manglona; 3rd Eliza Cruz Alerie Maratita  
**Life Science 1st:** Atta Suzuki 7 Nicky Miranda; 2nd Daniel Taitano 3rd Ina Taisacan  
**Physical Science 1st:** Khurston King & Odie Taitano; 2nd Konica Atalig & Jaomie Manglona; 3rd Michaela King  
**7th Grade- Overall:** Dana Calvo & Sabina Waguk  
**Earth Science 1st:** Nicolas Mendiola & Dominic Mendiola; 2nd Ryan Hipolito, Rudy Bill Ferrer; 3rd Joy Celis & Zahra Frazier  
**Life Science 1st:** Sabina Waguk & Dana Calvo; 2nd E-Nuri Paeda & Cisco Atalig; 3rd Juanita Racoma  
**Physical Science Honorable Mention:** Ferminton Maratita  
**8th Grade:** Overall Brandee Mendiola & Melody Masga  
**Earth Science 1st:** Aleen Mendiola, Honorable Mention Renz Nicholson  
**Life Science 1st:** Brandee Mendiola, Melody Masga; 2nd Carmen Masga; 3rd Loewe Hocog

reefs. For the public schools, the science fair was an opportunity to fulfill their standard benchmarks for science which mandates the completion of a 3rd quarter integrated project. Bringing real world application to their research in this placed-based, experiential education endeavor, we hope the lessons learned will be passed on to

the next generation. A win-win project for both DEQ and PSS, we hope the science fair promotes young scientists to consider the environmental sector for their career, helps deter intentional burning of the Talakhaya region, and encourages the Rota community to take care of their pristine natural resources, specifically coral reefs and the watersheds that support their health.

Special appreciation to all of the teachers at Sinapalo Elementary School: Enterina Calvo, Anna Mendiola, Valerie Atalig and Joey Quitugua, and Rota Junior High: Pinckney Steiner and Iros Waguk, for their enthusiasm and dedication in guiding the students through their first science fair. School principals Vanessa Hocog and Maria Sablan were excited by the mutually beneficial partnership and look forward to next years fair even recommended a proposed theme: "Coral Reefs: Our health, our wealth, and our lives".

For more information on how your government projects or private businesses can best catalyze a science fair in your local school, contact Rota Coral Conservation Program Coordinator Lihla Noori @532-3102 or lihlanoori@gmail.com.

# KES 8th Annual Cultural Day



One-year-old Deajah Rankin Santos displays her banana face painting during the Kagman Elementary School's 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kagman Elementary School teacher Hellena Jebehn leads her students in singing during the cultural day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan poses with Jenny Baek Huh and daughter Esther Hansol at the Korean Kimchi demonstration booth.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Local artist Daniel Babauta and wife Remy display their creative coconut carvings.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rita Santos shows her creativity in painting coconut shells at her booth.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kagman Elementary School's Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies students entertain the crowd with a traditional Carolinian dance presentation.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Clad in a traditional Carolinian attire, 5-year-old Luvilina George, a student of Kagman Elementary School, smile for the camera.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Ignacio Borja displays his artifacts during the cultural day celebration.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Inatuas Cultural Dance Group entertain the audience with traditional dance performances.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



A child watches the Inatuas Cultural Dance Group's performance.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Marlie, the daughter of the late Douglas Neil Rankin, the artist who invented the art form known as Banana Painting, follows her father's footsteps as she demonstrates to children the art of banana painting during the KES cultural day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

# CNMI Island-Wide Science Fair



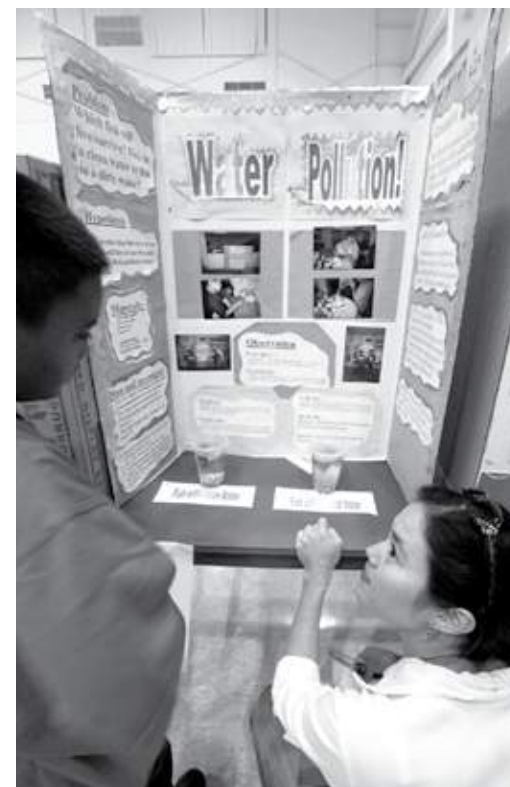
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas High School senior student Kristina Bermudez demonstrates her work called "Diffraction and the Photoelectric Effect" during the CNMI Island-Wide Science Fair at the MHS gymnasium Saturday.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Southern High School's Micaela Demapan and Kaelani Demapan prepare their project called "Suntastic Cooker."



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Tina Sablan interviews Kagman Elementary School's Gregory Sablan, 9, about his work called "Water Pollution" during the judging.



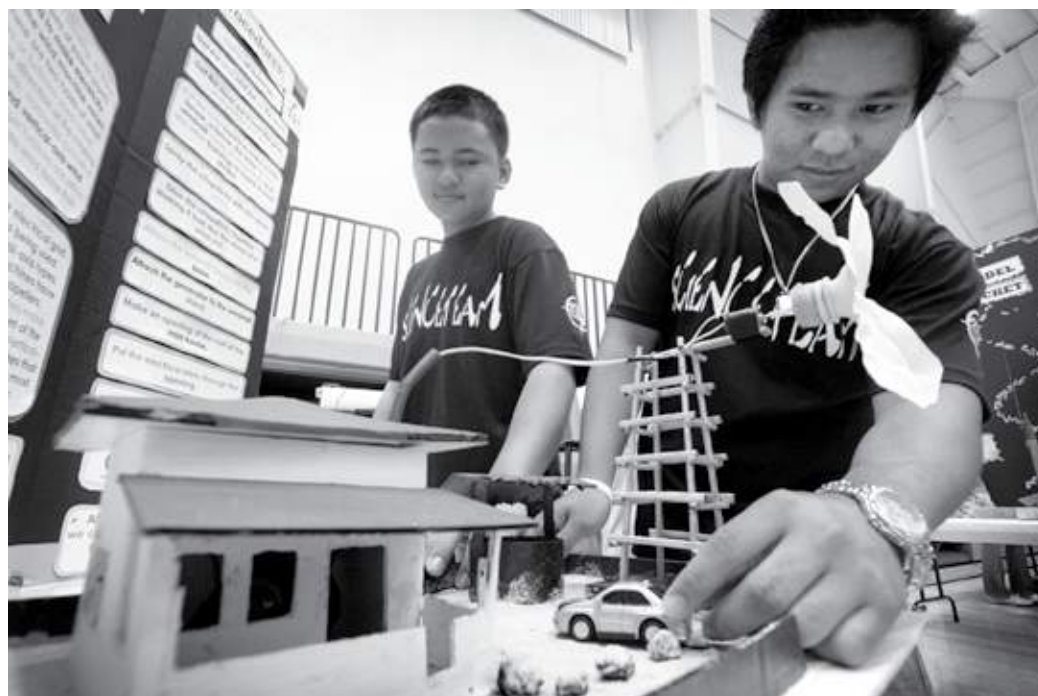
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dandan Elementary School's 5th grade student Jeffrey S. Centino shows his work called "Water Energy" to the judges.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dandan Elementary School's 5th grade student Joshua Mostales, organizes his work called "Do plants grow better in water or in soil?"



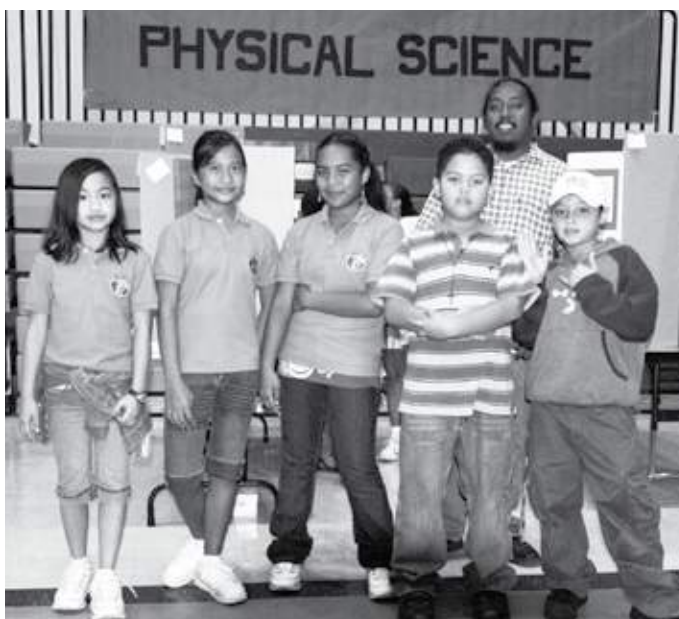
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chacha Oceanview Jr. High 8th grade students Reyel Mar C. Quezon and Kevin Santiago prepare their project called "Wind Power" before judging during the CNMI Island-Wide Science Fair.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ


Science Learning Community co-chair Rizalina Purugganan and Rose Arriola pose for a photo with Chacha Oceanview Jr. High science team members and teachers Joseph San Nicolas and Michael Mercado during the CNMI Island-Wide Science Fair.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sinapalo Elementary School student participants with teacher aide Mac James gather for a photo during the CNMI Island-Wide Science Fair.

*Fifth Year Death Anniversary*




We the family of the late  
**Jose SN. Pangelinan (Bolis)**  
 cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth death anniversary of our beloved Husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. Masses will be offer at the following:  
 April 11, 2008, Friday thru April 19, 2008, Saturday.

On Saturday, April 19, 2008 the final day after the mass celebration at 6:00 a.m., we, the family would like to extend an invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us for breakfast at the Social Hall.

Ginen I Familia



# Life & Style

## Rob Lowe's ex-nanny claims abuse

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of three former employees being sued by Rob Lowe says the actor sexually abused her for years but she continued to work for him and his wife because she loved their two boys and needed the job.

In legal papers filed in Santa Barbara, Jessica Gibson says Lowe touched her inappropriately several times between September 2005 and January 2008.

Gibson worked for Rob and Sheryl Lowe on and off for seven years before quitting on Feb. 24.

"I always thought it would be different when I went back, but it was not," Gibson said in the suit. "I stayed as long as I did because of the children and be-

cause I needed a job."

Last week, Lowe sued three former employees, including Gibson. He said she demanded \$1.5 million to remain silent about the abuse allegation, which his attorney dismissed as "outrageous" and "untrue." In that suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Lowe also accused another nanny of spreading lies about him.

Lowe's lawyer, Larry Stein, said Gibson never gave any indication she had a problem with Lowe during all the years she worked for him.

"She left at least two times, to pursue other jobs, and returned each time asking for more hours," Stein said. "She sent two e-mails

the day after she left, both saying she loved the Lowes and her leaving had nothing to do with them but her heart wasn't into being a nanny anymore.

Gibson's attorney, Gloria Allred, told The Associated Press Lowe filed his suit after his attorneys saw "the original content of our suit."

"They may have thought their pre-emptive strike would intimidate our client," Allred said Tuesday. "I can assure them it will not."

Allred said in e-mails to the AP later Tuesday that there was no police investigation regarding her client's claims. Asked why, she wrote, "No complaint made to police."

Gibson's countersuit, filed Monday, seeks unspecified damages.

Lowe, 44, is a former star of "The West Wing" and currently appears on ABC's "Brothers and Sisters."

He gained attention in the 1980s as a member of Hollywood's so-called Brat Pack, appearing in such films as "The Outsiders," "Class" and "St. Elmo's Fire."

At the height of his Brat Pack career in 1989 Lowe was embarrassed when a sex tape of him with two women surfaced. It had been recorded the year before in Atlanta, where he had attended the Democratic National Convention.

Actor Rob Lowe and his wife Sheryl arrive to the screening of "Thank You For Smoking," at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, in this Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006 file photo.



## 'Harry Potter' fan testifies in trial and weeps

NEW YORK (AP)—A Harry Potter fan who wants to publish an encyclopedic guide to the popular fantasy novels broke down and cried on the witness stand Tuesday as he reluctantly faced off in federal court against his idol J.K. Rowling.

The British author is suing publisher RDR Books for copyright infringement over its plans to publish a "Harry Potter Lexicon" based on a Web site created by Steven Vander Ark, a 50-year-old from Michigan who counts himself among Rowling's most devoted readers.

Vander Ark wept openly when he was asked to reflect on what the case has done to his relationship with the community of Harry Potter fans. The former middle school librarian, who fell in love with the books in 1998 and has devoted years to studying them and indexing their content online, could barely speak.

"It's been ... it's been," he stammered, choking on his words. "It's been difficult because there has been a lot of criticism, obviously, and that was never the intention. ... This has been an important part of my life for the last nine years or so."

He said his only goal had been to celebrate Rowling, who he called a "genius."

Vander Ark testified on the second day of a trial in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that has pitted his publisher, RDR Books, against Rowling and Warner Bros., the maker of the Harry Potter films and owner of intellectual property rights to the Potter books and movies.

Rowling and the media company are trying to prevent publication of the Lexicon, which RDR had sought to release last fall. Sales were delayed pending

the outcome of the suit.

During her testimony on Monday, Rowling said the Lexicon, which contains many passages taken verbatim from her novels, "constitutes wholesale theft" of her work. She also said its publication would spoil plans for her own Potter encyclopedia.

In a statement Tuesday after Vander Ark testified, Warner Bros. Entertainment and Rowling said that Vander Ark's good intentions in creating the lexicon are irrelevant.

"A fan's affectionate enthusiasm should not obscure acts of plagiarism," it said.

In his hours of testimony Tuesday, Vander Ark came across as a fan whose boyish and unbridled love of the Potter story had taken a distressingly unexpected turn. He first fell in love with the books while working as a children's librarian at a Christian school. Over the years, he has read each of the books "30 or 40 times," as well as every article ever written about Rowling.

Since 2000, his major contribution to Potter fan literature has been a Web version of the Lexicon, one put together on a low budget and largely made up of lists of characters, spells and creatures from the books.

Vander Ark said the Web site was no money maker - taking in less than \$7,000 in advertising revenue over its lifetime—and he intended it to be a hobby until he was approached last summer by RDR Books Publisher Roger Rapoport about putting out a printed version.

Vander Ark said he initially was against the idea, partly because he believed it would violate copyright law. Even after Rapoport assured him they

could publish legally, he remained unsure and insisted on a contract clause in which RDR agreed to take on costs caused by any copyright lawsuit.

Rowling testified Monday that the characters she created are as dear as her children, and that the ordeal of the suit is draining her of the will to write. She said she does not expect to complete her own Potter encyclopedia for two to three years.

As for Vander Ark, his distress hasn't made him less prolific.

Recently, he moved to London, where he is working on two more books about the Harry Potter universe. He had also planned to work as a guide for a travel company giving Harry Potter-themed tours in Europe until the lawsuit caused him to back out.

Vander Ark also seems to have lost none of his passion.

His face lit up when an attorney for RDR books informed him that Rowling had complained that the Lexicon had given the wrong etymology for the door-opening charm "Alohomora."

Vander Ark had speculated that the word was a combination of the Hawaiian word "alo-ha" and the Latin word "mora." Rowling explained that the word actually came from a West African dialect.

"Really!" Vander Ark said, his eyes alight. "Sorry. That's very exciting stuff for someone like me."

The trial is scheduled to resume Wednesday and last about a week. There is no jury; it will be decided by U.S. District Judge Robert Patterson Jr. At issue is whether there is enough interpretation and analysis in the lexicon to justify its use of Rowling's characters and language.

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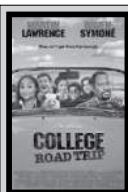
**NOW SHOWING**



### Nim's Island

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30  
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30  
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20

**Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin**  
 Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG



### College Road Trip

Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35  
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:05 9:35  
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:05  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:05

**Martin Lawrence, Raven Symone**  
 Comedy • Rated G



### Leatherheads

Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40  
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:25 9:40  
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:25  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25

**George Clooney, Renee Zellweger**  
 Sports, Comedy • Rated PG13



### Drillbit Taylor

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00  
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00  
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15

**Owen Wilson, Alex Frost**  
 Comedy • Rated PG13



### Superhero Movie

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45  
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45  
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00

**Drake Bell, Sara Paxton**  
 Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13

### Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."



### Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 @ @  
 Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @  
 Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @

**Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)**  
 Family, Animated • Rated G



### Definitely Maybe

Friday 4:05 @ @  
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 @ @  
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 @ @  
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 @

**Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin**  
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13



### 10,000 BC

Friday @ 7:10 9:50  
 Saturday @ 7:10 9:50  
 Sunday @ 7:10  
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10

**Omar Sharif, Steven Strait**  
 Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13



### Never Back Down

Friday @ 7:30 9:55  
 Saturday @ 7:30 9:55  
 Sunday @ 7:30  
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30

**Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou**  
 Action, Drama • Rated PG13

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# Alicia Keys says comments were 'misrepresented'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Alicia Keys says she's not a conspiracy theorist. In a statement issued Tuesday, Keys said she was clarifying "comments that were made during my recent Blender magazine interview since they have been misrepresented."

According to an interview in the magazine's May issue, the 27-year-old singer says: "'Gangsta rap' was a ploy to convince black people to kill each other. 'Gangsta rap' didn't exist." She also is quoted as saying that she wears a gold AK-47 pendant around her neck

"to symbolize strength, power and killing 'em dead."

"We stand by our story," Blender spokeswoman Kate Cafaro told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"My comments about 'gangsta rap' were in no way trying to suggest that the government is responsible for creating this genre of rap music," Keys said in a statement issued by J Records. "The point that I was trying to make was that the term was oversloganized by some of the media causing reactions

that were not always positive. Many of the 'gangsta rap' lyrics articulate the problems of the artists' experiences and I think all of us, including our leaders, could be doing more to address these problems including drugs, gang violence, crime, and other related social issues."

As for the AK-47 remark, Keys said Tuesday that AK-47 is a nickname given to her by friends "as an acronym for Alicia Keys and a metaphor for wowing people with my music and performances, 'killing 'em

dead' on stage. The reference was in no way meant to have a literal, political or negative connotation."

When AP attempted to reach Keys last week about the Blender interview, her publicist, Theola Borden, said the singer was on vacation and unavailable for comment.

The multiplatinum star behind the hits "Fallin'" and "No One" most recently had success with her latest CD, "As I Am," which has sold 3.4 million copies, according to Nielsen Soundscan.

## Debbie Gibson seeks restraining order against Spanish man

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Singer Debbie Gibson filed for a restraining order Tuesday against a Spanish man who runs a fan club and has allegedly followed her on concert tours and showed up at her door.

Gibson asked that Bassas Jorge Puigdollers, 44, stay 100 yards away, not attempt to contact her by phone or e-mail, and stop attending her concerts, according to court documents filed in Superior Court.

The man, reached by phone in Spain, said he meant no harm.

"I wanted to use the fan club to help people who can't go see her to get autographs and photos," he told The Associated Press in Spanish, adding that the correct spelling and order of his name is Jordi Bassas Puigdollers.

Gibson claimed Puigdollers has attended all of her "nationwide performances" since 2002, where he often tries to go backstage to see her and get autographs. He also follows her to her hotel room, according to court papers.

When Puigdollers came to the front door of the Gibson's Los Angeles home Sunday, the 1980s pop star called police "for fear of my life," she wrote in court documents.

## Laura Bush gets an hour as guest host on 'Today' show

**NEW YORK (AP)**—First lady Laura Bush will be "guest host" for an hour of NBC's "Today" show next week.

The network said she'll host the 9 a.m. EDT hour April 22, the morning of the Pennsylvania primary. By that time in the four-hour morning show, politics is usually set aside for issues that affect women, who make up the majority of the audience during that time period.

Mrs. Bush will participate in several segments and interviews, NBC said Tuesday.

She will be joined earlier in the broadcast by her daughter Jenna to talk about their new children's book, "Read All About It!"

The first lady will also give Ann Curry a tour of the Bush family ranch in Crawford, Texas.

First lady Laura Bush arrives on the South Lawn of the White House, in this April 6, 2008, file photo in Washington. **AP**



## 'Dancing With the Stars' makes another cut

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Despite committing to the cause and calming her nerves each week with yoga and candles, Priscilla Presley became the latest celebrity casualty Tuesday on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 62-year-old actress, who came into the results show in last place, failed to capture enough viewer votes to overcome her low score. Judges said her rumba was dull and technically imprecise, awarding her just 21 out of 30 points.

"It lacked spontaneity for me,"

said head judge Len Goodman. "It was too careful. I was disappointed with the performance."

Still, Presley was gracious, telling the judges, "I applaud you. You did a great job," as she left the ballroom.

"This has been an incredible experience," she said. "It is life-changing. ... I learned so much about myself and all the things I can do."

Celebrities weren't the only ones trying to charm the judges on the ABC dance-off. The "ballroom dancing kids" competition,

which began last week, continued Tuesday with two pint-sized pairs vying for a chance to give a command performance on the show, which draws nearly 20 million viewers each week.

Tuesday's show also featured an upbeat performance by hybrid rockers Ozomatli and a tender tune by balladeer James Blunt, who sang his new single, "Carry You Home."

Judges scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

## Brazil says 'no' to Naomi Campbell's blood—for now



**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)**—Naomi Campbell wants to give blood to help fight a dengue fever epidemic, but Brazilian officials won't take it yet.

The British supermodel arrived at the HemoRio medical center Tuesday to take part in a blood drive, but was turned away. Officials there say she needs to wait longer after hav-

ing surgery in February to remove a cyst.

An outbreak of mosquito-borne dengue fever has infected more than 75,000 people in Rio de Janeiro state this year and killed at least 80.

Campbell often visits Brazil, and Rio Mayor Cesar Maia has invited her to be a goodwill ambassador for the city.

British model Naomi Campbell talks with the media at a press conference after she was unable to donate blood for victims of dengue at Hemorio center in Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, April 15, 2008. **AP**

## Families of disabled children can find help for the future

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** Please allow me to respond to "No Thanks! Sacramento, Calif." (Feb. 7). Having also grown up with a disabled sibling, I empathize with her distress and feeling "saddled" with an obligation of caring for her younger mentally retarded sister.

I recommend she talk to her school counselor, who may be able to assist with family counseling. Once her sister turns 18, she may be eligible for public assistance as well as other state programs. Many nonprofit organizations are available to assist disabled citizens after their parents have passed, so the sole burden does not fall upon the sibling's shoulders.

My mother has conservatorship over my brother's medical affairs, while a local nonprofit organization oversees his financial affairs. When Mother passes, there is a small trust fund set aside for him that I will manage. I will then become his medical conservator. Everything is set up in a way that I can care for my brother while maintaining a life separate from him.

—LISA IN SAN DIEGO

**DEAR LISA:** I was enlightened by the responses that poured in offering additional recommendations that may alleviate the concerns of both "No Thanks" and her mother. Thank you for sharing yours. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a senior support coordinator (futures and estate planning) with The Arc of Frederick County, Md. The concerns "No Thanks" has about being completely responsible for her sister's care are frequently expressed by siblings of children with disabilities. Fortunately, there are many possibilities for her family that would allow the best of both worlds.

The Arc ([www.arccf.org](http://www.arccf.org)) offers information and support in almost every state. We serve individuals with disabilities and their families and can assist with plan development.

Thank you for printing the letter from this young lady, Abby. She echoes the concerns of siblings around the world, and there IS an answer.

—KARLA IN FREDERICK, MD.

**DEAR ABBY:** As the mother and sister of special-needs people, I understand both "NT's" and her mother's points of view. You recommend a "group living situation" for her sister, but unfortunately there aren't nearly enough group homes to meet the large (and growing) demand for them. "Becky" should get on a housing wait list as soon as possible.

Her parents should contact the special-ed department at the local high school. The department is aware of organizations that can help with Becky's needs. Also, the parents should make financial arrangements for Becky's future. My parents did these things for my brother, and I am very grateful.

—SEES BOTH SIDES IN COLUMBIA, MD.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am mom to a 15-year-old son with autism, bipolar disorder and mental retardation. I also have a daughter who is 12.

One day, when my daughter was only 8, we explained that most adults move out of their parents' home and into a place of their own. I explained that eventually her brother would be moving into a group home with others like him.

My daughter said: "I love my brother, but I don't think I want him to live with me when we grow up. Is it OK if I visit him and make sure he has the things that make him happy? He could come to my house for holidays and birthdays."

Perhaps, if "No Thanks" shows this to her mother, they can both see the compromise and have a little peace of mind.

—BEEN THERE IN OREGON

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

IF YOU WANT TO STAY DAD, YOU'VE GOT TO POLISH YOUR IMAGE.

MY IMAGE.

RIGHT. SEE, NOW EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE INSENSITIVE TO THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF MINORS.

A FEW MAGNANIMOUS GESTURES WHILE IN OFFICE NOW MIGHT BE IN ORDER. IF YOUR MIND'S GONE BLANK, I HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS.

OH, THE SUSPENSE.

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MIGHT REPEAL MANDATORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. THAT ALONE COULD ROCKET YOU TO VICTORY.

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

TODAY'S NEWS IS VERY DEPRESSING...

BUT NOT IF I SING IT!

EARTHQUAKE... TIDAL WAVE...

I'D RATHER BE DEPRESSED

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU LOOK DIFFERENT FOR SOME REASON.

WE CHANGED BUN MANUFACTURERS.

So, how was the movie?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jazzy style

4 Vegan's no-no

8 Peter, Paul and Mary's genre

12 Plant prickle

13 Spanish river

14 Lotus auto model

15 Goalpost part

17 Exhaust

18 "Encore!"

19 Product-label ID

21 Member of the service?

24 "What'd'ya say?"

25 Priestly garment

26 Cushion

28 "Likewise"

32 Capri or Wight

34 Ump

36 Belgrade resident

37 Blood-sucking parasite

39 Spider's creation

41 CCV divided by V

42 Attention getter

44 Polish money

46 Crisis situation

50 Sphere

51 Milky gem

52 Barton's group

56 Show-room sample

57 Eagle's nose

58 No longer stylish

59 Mideast gulf

60 Puts into the mix

61 Crucial

DOWN

1 English channel?

2 "— Town"

3 Likely

4 Bungle

5 Recede

6 Bedouin

7 Penta-teuch

8 Sells for

9 Hodge-podge

10 Shortening

11 Elbow counter-part

16 Attack command

20 Pirate's potation

21 Follow closely

22 Differently

23 Standard

27 Morning moisture

29 Classic, as an example

30 Paris airport

31 Sapporo sashes

33 Troop arrangement

35 Shriner's topper

38 That girl

40 Thwarts

43 — maté

45 Bobby of hockey

46 Last few notes

47 Newspaper page

48 Lady of the knight?

49 "Monopoly" card

53 Old man

54 Seek damages

55 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Victoria Beckham, 34; Jennifer Garner, 36; Liz Phair, 41; Olivia Hussey, 57

Happy Birthday: Strive for perfection this year and you will get much more than you expect in return. Your ability to cover every detail and to stay on top of what everyone is doing will put you in a strong position. Recognize when you should delegate and when you should do something yourself—this will be the key to your success. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 27, 37, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Business will help you keep things in perspective today. As soon as you bring personal or emotional matters into the picture, you will probably make poor choices. Don't overspend, over-react or take on others' responsibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give whatever you do your all and you will reap the rewards. There is money to be made, advancements to be gained and plenty of opportunity as long as you stick to what's being asked of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Problems with a friend, relative or child will cause worry and will take up your time. You will have to make some fast assessments and adjustments in order to balance everything. Use your imagination to figure things out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put in a little extra time and effort at home. It will make a difference to someone you care about. An emotional matter can be dealt with and the changes made will help you realize what

you have and how much you want to restore or maintain it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your ears open for any change in plans that people around you make. It will make a difference to your game plan if you are prepared for what others do. Money can be made but don't spend frivolously.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will find it hard to keep your emotions in check, especially when dealing with partnership or personal matters. You don't have to go overboard to win but it will help to compromise. An opening in a group you wish to join looks promising.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider re-thinking your strategy. Taking a strong position will have an impact on those around you and may stifle what you are trying to accomplish. Any crucial changes made at home may put you in a demanding position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An interest from someone you least expect may appear to be a compliment at first. However, be careful—this person may want something you don't want to give up. A change at home will not turn out as planned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep things fair and you will excel. Try to take advantage and someone will call your bluff. A trip will pay off in the deals you make. Love and romance are skyrocketing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Changes will be pushed at you if you are difficult to get along with. You will have

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to compromise if you don't want to ruin a deal you've been working on. Someone you love may agree with you for the wrong reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may not be totally sure of what others might do but, if you follow your heart and act on your feelings, you will come out on top. When it comes to business, don't get involved socially with your colleagues or authority figures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional deal can be reached if you are forthright about the way you feel and what you expect from those with whom you are dealing. A firm offer, commitment and partnership can result in greater prosperity and a brighter future.

Birthday Baby: You have vision, persistence and the ability to make things happen. You stand firm for your beliefs, set standards and make reforms.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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37 38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45

46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

9

6 9 4

4 8 3 5

5 4

6 1 8 5

7 2

5 8 2 6

7 1 9 1

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9 2 3 8 6 4 5 7 1

8 1 5 2 9 7 6 4 3

6 7 4 3 5 1 8 2 9

5 4 2 9 8 3 1 6 7

1 8 6 5 7 2 9 3 4

3 9 7 4 1 6 2 5 8

4 5 8 6 3 9 7 1 2

2 6 1 7 4 8 3 9 5

7 3 9 1 2 5 4 8 6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PREPARING FOR CANADA'S BC OLYMPICS Solution: 9 letters

S M S E I T I V I T C A S T S

E E T T I M M O C L B P H R L

M M I C A E G L N M O E C A P

A B K R D D N O A R A G R C R

G E M A O W I N T E R E O K O

T R L N R T N U F C D I T P D

E S I E I D I L M E N I E R U

I G F D N P A R F S E V U O C

D N A B K G R N R A R T S G I

M R U T S H T E C E U E D R N

T A C I S U M N S E T D C A G

U L S I T E M B E S L L O M

R R I C H M O N D R U N S

I L E V O T E S O B C L A S

N A L P E T S W S T N E V E

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Yesterday's Answer: Rainfall

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# Lakers clinch West's top seed with win over Kings



**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**The Los Angeles Lakers began the season in chaos 5 1/2 months ago. They finished it as the Western Conference champions.

Pau Gasol had 22 points, leading MVP candidate Kobe Bryant added 20, and the Lakers beat the short-handed Sacramento Kings 124-101 Tuesday night to clinch the No. 1 seed in the West and home-court advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

The Lakers (57-25), who won eight of their last nine games, begin the playoffs this weekend—most likely Sunday—against Denver or Dallas. It will be the Nuggets unless they beat Memphis and Dallas loses to New Orleans on Wednesday night. If the Hornets win, they'll have the same record as the Lakers, but Los Angeles wins the tiebreaker by virtue of a better conference record.

Gasol shot 9-of-11 before coming out of the game for good with 2:38 left in the third quarter, and Bryant joined him on the bench moments later after having shot just 3-of-13. But he went 13-of-14 from the foul line.

Quincy Douby led the Kings (38-44) with a career-high 32 points.

## Hornets 114, Clippers 92

At New Orleans, David West scored 32 points and Chris Paul had 12 during a decisive run in the third quarter as New Orleans downed the Los Angeles Clippers to clinch the Southwest Division.

The Hornets have the No. 2 seed in the playoffs in the rugged Western Conference.

Hornets coach Byron Scott earned his 300th career victory.

New Orleans struggled for a half against the reeling Clippers before putting them away with 26-6 spurt in the third quarter. The Clippers have lost six in a row and are 4-25 in their last 29 games.

Paul finished with 22 points and 12 assists.

Rookie Al Thornton led the Clippers with 26 points.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, scores against Sacramento Kings forward Shelden Williams, left, and Mikki Moore during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Tuesday April 15, 2008.

# Anthony apologizes; police deny special treatment in arrest

**DENVER (AP)—**Nuggets All-Star forward Carmelo Anthony said Tuesday he was "truly sorry" for his arrest on DUI charges, and police denied giving him special treatment, even though one officer gave him a lift after his arrest and another drove his car to a city lot.

"I'm here to man up to my mistake, just to let you know that I'm truly sorry for what happened and everything that's going on," Anthony said. "What happened Monday morning was truly and totally unacceptable."

He spoke for about two minutes and left without taking questions. He didn't refer to his notes, appearing instead to speak off the cuff. The team later released a written statement attributed to him.

Teammate Allen Iverson stood off to the side as Anthony spoke.

Anthony acknowledged the arrest came at a bad time, hours before the Nuggets clinched their fifth consecutive postseason appearance when the Golden State Warriors lost on Monday night.

"It's kind of bad timing right now, due to the playoffs, due to our team's success," he said. "Once again, I just want to apologize."

Anthony was alone in his silver

Mercedes when an officer pulled him over on Interstate 25 early Monday for weaving and failing to dim his lights, police said.

Detective Sharon Hahn said Anthony was arrested after he failed a series of sobriety tests and was taken to police headquarters and booked.

Hahn said a police sergeant then drove Anthony to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Denver. Hahn said it's her understanding that Anthony's fiancée LaLa Vazquez couldn't pick him up because of child-care issues. The couple have a young son together.

"I want to make sure the public understands that I fully support my fiancée, Carmelo Anthony, and stand by him through this ordeal," Vazquez said in a statement. "I will always have his back and never refused to pick him up from the police station. In fact, they offered to bring him to me."

Anthony said he appreciated her support.

"LaLa continues to be a rock in my life, she's always been there for me through thick and thin," Anthony said in a release.

Another officer drove Anthony's car

to a city lot until it could be picked up, Hahn said.

Officers said Anthony didn't get preferential treatment.

Police spokesman Sonny Jackson said it's "not a standard practice (for an officer to give a DUI suspect a ride), but it is done on occasion and it is not a violation of department policy."

Hahn said officers also have the discretion to have suspects' cars towed to an impound lot, let a friend or relative move it or move it themselves.

"We've done it before. When I've worked on the street, I've driven cars to different locations when someone's been arrested. It's on the highway, you don't want to leave a car on the highway," she said.

Anthony's attorney, Dan Recht, said his client consented to a blood test, but results won't be available for about two weeks. His first court appearance is scheduled for May 14.

Nuggets coach George Karl said he thinks Anthony's apology is sincere.

"When I spoke with him this morning, he seems to be very genuinely upset at himself for making the mistake. Where we go from here now is con-

## Pistons 115, Timberwolves 103

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jarvis Hayes scored 20 points and Richard Hamilton added 18 as Detroit clinched the NBA's second-best record behind Boston.

With the victory, Detroit will have home-court advantage over any Western Conference opponent if it makes the NBA finals.

The loss, which ended Minnesota's two-game winning streak, was its 60th of the season.

Chauncey Billups added 17 points and six assists against his former team, while Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 30 points.

## Magic 121, Hawks 105

At Atlanta, Maurice Evans scored a career-high 27 points and six of his Orlando teammates also scored in double figures.

Evans had 23 points in the second half as both playoff-bound teams substituted liberally, knowing the game had no impact on their postseason positioning.

Orlando already clinched the Southeast Division and will be the No. 3 seed in the East against Philadelphia. The Hawks are headed to the playoffs for the first time since 1999 as the eighth-seeded team and will play Boston.

## Nets 112, Bobcats 108, OT

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Richard Jefferson scored 28 points and hit a go-ahead jumper as New Jersey rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit.

Vince Carter added 18 points, Devin Harris had 17 and eight assists and the Nets limited Charlotte to 47 points in the final 29 minutes after giving up 61 in the first half.

Jason Richardson had 31 points to lead Charlotte in the low key game between two non-playoff teams.

## Trail Blazers 113, Grizzlies 91

At Portland, Oregon, James Jones hit six 3-pointers and had 20 points to give Portland a win over Memphis and shot at

a winning record.

Brandon Roy had 16 points and 11 assists for Portland (41-40), back over .500 with one game left this season. The Blazers have not finished with a winning record since the 2002-03 season.

Jarrett Jack scored 18 points and Channing Frye had 16 for Portland. Travis Outlaw punctuated the game with a pair of alley-oop dunks for the final margin.

Hakim Warrick led Memphis with 17 points and 14 rebounds.

The Grizzlies were without veteran guard Mike Miller because of back spasms, and guard Javaris Crittenton, who has a sprained right thumb.

## Rose to bolt Memphis for NBA, Calipari agrees to extension

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—**Memphis freshman Derrick Rose announced he was jumping to the NBA Tuesday, the same day coach John Calipari agreed in principle to a contract extension with the school.

Rose capped his spectacular first season by leading Memphis to the national championship game, where they lost to Kansas in overtime.

The 6-foot-3 guard from Chicago averaged 20.8 points in six NCAA tournament games and will likely be taken with one of the top picks in the draft.

Terms of Calipari's deal have not been finalized.

Rose, who helped Memphis to an NCAA Division I record 38 victories last season, said he enjoyed his year in college but is ready to make the leap to the NBA.

"My only regret is not winning a national title for the University of Memphis," Rose said. "I am, however, very excited about the prospect of playing in the NBA and continuing to strive to be the best player and the best person I can be."

Rose's announcement was hardly shocking.

He came to Memphis as one of the nation's top recruits, and spent the year in college only because of the NBA rule that requires a player to be at least one year removed from high school before entering the draft.

Calipari said he always worked under the assumption that Rose would be a one-and-done player.

"Derrick is one of the great players I've ever coached, but of even more importance, he is one of the greatest teammates I've been around," Calipari said in a statement. "We are forever indebted to Derrick and his family for what they did for not only this basketball program, but also for the University and the city of Memphis. It was a tremendous opportunity for me and the staff to coach such a fine person."

Memphis is still waiting to see if junior guard Chris Douglas-Roberts, the team's leading scorer and Conference USA Player of the Year, will enter the draft. Douglas-Roberts had indicated during the season that he would at least submit his name into the draft to test interest from teams.

# Cabrera's two-run homer helps Tigers rally in eighth inning for second night in a row



**D E -  
T R O I T**  
(A P) —  
M i g u e l

Cabrera hit a two-run homer to cap the Detroit Tigers' second straight eighth-inning rally, beating the Minnesota Twins 6-5 in the American League on Tuesday.

Magglio Ordonez homered and drove in two runs, and Gary Sheffield and Carlos Guillen also hit home runs for Detroit, which scored six times on Monday in the eighth inning for an 11-9 win over Minnesota.

## Red Sox 5, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Jason Varitek hit a pinch-hit home run in the ninth inning off Jensen Lewis to lead Boston to a two-game sweep of Cleveland in an AL Championship Series rematch.

Varitek came up with one out in the ninth and drove a 1-2 pitch from Lewis (0-1) the opposite way to left-center for his third career homer as a pinch-hitter.

The Red Sox, who won three straight over the Indians to advance to the World Series last October, will take a four-game winning streak to New York for a two-game set at Yankee Stadium starting on Wednesday.

## Angels 7, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Gary Matthews Jr. snapped out of a slump with a tiebreaking, three-run double, and Los Angeles rallied to hand Texas its fifth straight loss.

Matthews was in a 3-for-27 slide before his double to left-center in the sixth inning off Josh Rupe (0-1) broke a 4-all tie.

Darren Oliver (1-0), like Matthews a former Ranger, threw 2 2-3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Dustin Moseley.

## White Sox 4, Athletics 1

At Chicago, John Danks celebrated his 23rd birthday with his first win in 12 starts, taking a shutout into the eighth inning to lead Chicago past Oakland.

Danks (1-1) held the Athletics to five singles while striking out four and walking two. Carlos Quentin hit a three-run homer in the fourth for Chicago.

Oakland's Dana Eveland (1-1) had his worst outing of the year, allowing four runs — three earned—in 4 2-3 innings.

## Mariners 11, Royals 6

At Seattle, Jose Lopez became the 12th player in major league history to hit three sacrifice flies in a game. Yuniesky Betancourt drove in three runs to lead Seattle.

Lopez joined Edgar Martinez as the only other Mariners player to have three sacrifice flies in a game. The Mariners had five sac flies overall to tie a team record set in August 1988.

Kansas City starter John Bale (0-3) allowed seven hits and five earned runs in three-plus innings. Hideo Nomo, in his second game of a comeback at the age of 39 after having elbow surgery in 2006, allowed four runs while pitching the fourth and fifth.

## Yankees 5, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Andy Pettitte allowed three runs over seven innings and Hideki Matsui homered to lead New York to a two-game sweep of Tampa Bay.

Pettitte (2-1) gave up nine hits—seven in the first three innings—struck out five and walked three. The left-hander is 14-2 against Tampa Bay overall, including 8-1 at Tropicana Field.



Detroit Tigers Miguel Cabrera points to Magglio Ordonez as he rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run that scored Ordonez in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins Tuesday, April 15, 2008, in Detroit.

## Blue Jays 11, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Aaron Hill hit a three-run homer, and Alex Rios and Matt Stairs each had two RBIs for Toronto.

David Eckstein had three hits and scored three runs for the Blue Jays, who reached season highs in runs and hits (16).

## Phillies 3, Astros 0

At Philadelphia, a four-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning carried the Philadelphia Phillies to a win over the Houston Astros.

After being held scoreless for eight innings, a leadoff homer, a hit batter, and then a two-run homer drew the Phillies level at 3-3 with two outs before Pedro Feliz ripped a shot to the left-field corner, scoring the runner

from first to win the game.

## Cubs 9, Reds 5

In Chicago, Derrek Lee hit a three-run homer and started a pivotal double play to help Chicago beat Cincinnati and former Cubs manager Dusty Baker.

Baker managed the Cubs for four seasons and got them within five outs of the World Series five years ago, but after a last-place finish in 2006, his contract was not renewed.

Lee's fifth homer was a long drive to left-center on a gusty night.

## Diamondbacks 8, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Chris Young hit a two-run homer as Arizona downed San Francisco.

Conor Jackson connected for

the second consecutive game to support pitcher Micah Owings, who struck out six in six innings and didn't give up a hit until the fourth. He gave up just one run.

## Mets 6, Nationals 0

In New York, David Wright homered and drove in five runs as New York beat struggling Washington.

Jose Reyes returned to the lineup with four hits for the Mets. After missing two games with a strained left hamstring, Reyes singled, doubled and tripled in that order during his first three at-bats.

## Cardinals 6, Brewers 1

In St. Louis, Braden Looper pitched around Milwaukee slugger Prince Fielder to steer St.

Louis to victory.

Looper limited a Milwaukee lineup missing Ryan Braun to three hits in five innings. He tied his high with five walks, including Fielder all three times.

## Marlins 4, Braves 0

In Miami, Scott Olsen pitched seven innings of five-hit ball as Florida closed down Atlanta.

Josh Willingham hit an RBI triple and scored a run for the Marlins.

Olsen struck out three and did not walk a batter.

It was Florida's first shutout since July last year.

## Padres 6, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Randy Wolf held Colorado hitless for 6 2-3 innings and struck out nine, leading San Diego to victory.

Padres right fielder Brian Giles collected his 1,000th RBI.

It was the first time the teams met since Colorado's 9-8 win in last season's 13-inning NL wildcard tiebreaker.

Wolf and reliever Kevin Cameron combined for a two-hitter. It was the Padres' second consecutive shutout and third of the season. They led the majors with 20 shutouts last year.

## Dodgers 11, Pirates 2

In Los Angeles, the home side ended Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak.

Dodgers Jeff Kent and Russell Martin homered and James Loney extended his season-opening hitting streak to 14 games.

Loney is one of two players to hit safely in each of his team's first 14 games this year, along with Pittsburgh's Nate McLouth.

Los Angeles extended the lead to 8-1 in the fifth, scoring five runs with two outs.

# Tiger Woods will miss a month after surgery on left knee



Tiger Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday to repair cartilage damage, his second operation in five years on the same knee. He is expected to miss at least a month while he recovers.

The surgery, announced on his Web site, came two days after Woods finished three shots behind Trevor Immelman in the Masters. He most likely will miss The Players Championship, but should return in time to play the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines on June 12.

"I made the decision to deal with the pain and schedule the surgery for after the Masters," Woods said. "The upside is that I have been through this process before and know how to handle

it. I look forward to working through the rehabilitation process and getting back to action as quickly as I can."

The surgery was performed in Park City, Utah, by Thomas Rosenberg, who also operated on Woods' left knee in December 2002. Woods also had surgery in 1994 on his left knee to remove a benign tumor.

Swing coach Hank Haney told the AP in phone interview he knew Woods' knee was bothering him, but was not aware of the surgery until Woods called him.

"He's been having a lot of trouble," Haney said. "He doesn't talk about stuff like that. He doesn't want to use excuses, you know? I don't think it affected his play. It affected his practice a little bit. He hit 14 greens in regulation on Sunday. Hard to say it was the knee."

Woods gave no indication his knee was bothering him the first three months of the season, when he won his first four tournaments to extend a winning streak that dated to September.

"Tiger has been experiencing pain in his knee since the middle of last year, and when he had it looked at by his doctors, arthroscopic surgery was recommended," said Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at IMG. "Tiger has played through the pain in the past, but knew it would be better for him to have the procedure done as early as possible."

Steinberg said the surgery repaired cartilage damage. The 2002 surgery drained fluid from around the anterior cruciate ligament and removed a benign cyst.

Woods won the Bridgestone Invitational and PGA Championship in consecutive weeks in Au-

gust, the latter his 13th career major. After tying for second at the Deutsche Bank Championship to Phil Mickelson, he won the final two events to capture the FedEx Cup, won his unofficial Target World Challenge in December, and won his first four events until tying for fifth at Doral last month.

During the final two events of the PGA Tour season — the BMW Championship in Chicago and the Tour Championship — Woods occasionally would press his foot against a cooler on the tee box and stretch his knee.

He also stumbled behind the eighth green at Southern Hills during the final round of the PGA Championship, right after he chipped in for birdie and was backing up to throw a fist pump.

Otherwise, there were no other outward signs he was hurting.

"He's been cautious with it

working out," Haney said. "He just needed to go in there and clean it out."

The recovery is expected to be four to six weeks, meaning Woods will not be able to defend his title May 1 in the Wachovia Championship. He likely will miss The Players Championship, one of three non-majors he has never missed since turning pro.

"Of course, we're disappointed when Tiger is unable to compete in a PGA Tour event," commissioner Tim Finchem said on the tour's Web site. "There is really never a good time for an athlete—especially one of Tiger's caliber—to take weeks off from competition during the season. But his health concerns have to come first."

Woods missed two months the last time he had surgery, but most of that was around the holiday and he only missed one tourna-

ment. This will be the second time in two years that he has sat out more than a month between the Masters and the U.S. Open. He missed nine weeks when his father died of cancer in 2006, returned to the U.S. Open at Winged Foot and missed the cut.

Assuming the recovery goes as planned, Woods probably will return at the Memorial two weeks before the U.S. Open. Despite his runner-up finish at the Masters, he will be a heavy favorite at the second major. Woods has won six times at Torrey Pines, including the last four years.

The last time Woods had knee surgery, he won three of his first four tournaments, starting with the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines.

"This is something he's already used to," Haney said. "He deals with stuff incredibly, like you would expect him to." (AP)



# BASA honors top performers

PHOTOS AND TEXT By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



The Belau Amateur Softball Association honored the top performers of its recently concluded Masters Softball League in a simple ceremony held last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

The awarding was held after the three-game championship series between Salty Boyz and PTI 83, which the former won.

Salty Boyz's first baseman Darwin Masaharu led the list of awardees after winning the finals most valuable player trophy for his consistent hitting in the three-game series going 8-for-9 with eight RBIs.

Mabel Ngringemelas was named the regular season MVP after collecting three individual awards. He had the most runs scored with 16, connected with four triples, and had 18 RBIs the whole season.

Leo Bobai beat Masaharu for the batting crown going 22-for-35 with a .629 average against his teammates' .556. The tireless Reno Celis claimed the doubles crown with five while Charito Eungel blasted three outside-the-park four-baggers becoming the league's home run king.

Manny Tenorio earned the pitching title after having a 2.82 ERA in the nine games he played. He pitched a total of 67 innings and gave up 92 hits with 51 runs—27 of which were earned.

Donald Flores was the league's strikeout champion after retiring a total of 23 batters all season long. Steve Brel was also the recipient of the shortest player award beating three other nominees.



Salty Boyz's Leo Bobai, center, receives the batting title from Belau Amateur Softball Association board members Ace Yoshida, left, and Brian Adelbai.



Charito Eungel, right, was the league's home run king with three outside-the-fence dingers.



Mabel Ngringemelas, right, collects three individual trophies for having the most runs scored, most triples, and most RBIs. Ngringemelas also won the regular season most valuable player award.



Donald Flores, center, receives his trophy for having the most strikeouts with 23.



Left, Steve Brel poses with his trophy after being named as the league's shortest player.



Top, PTI 83 gathers around for a group photo after receiving their runner-up trophy.



Left, Team Chelus pose with their third place trophy.



Chelus' Poland Yamada, center, receives the most doubles trophy of teammate Reno Celis.



Darwin Masaharu, center, was named the finals MVP.



## BASA honors top performers

The Belau Amateur Softball Association honored the top performers of its recently concluded Masters Softball League in a simple ceremony held last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

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28 THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Lakers clinch West's top seed with win over Kings

The Los Angeles Lakers began the season in chaos 5 1/2 months ago. They finished it as the Western Conference champions.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# DCCA caps perfect season with title



JON PEREZ

Members of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs pose with their medals and pennant and championship trophies after beating Aguagat in the finals of the men's division of the Inter-Government Softball League on Tuesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs completed its undefeated season in the men's division of the Inter-government Softball League using an avalanche of runs to glide past Aguagat in Tuesday finals.

Home runs kept flying out of the

Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field as DCCA was all business downing Aguagat with a tsunami of hits to cruise to a 43-11 win.

It was 43-3 at one point and if not for a brief run made by Aguagat, which faced the tough task of beating DCCA twice to claim the title, in the bottom of the seventh.

DCCA smacked a total of 16 hom-

ers with two grand slams against the Aguagat bullpen, which gave up all earned runs on 39 hits with nine walks.

Umpire Nick Castro nearly ran out of balls as the DCCA batters kept pounding every Aguagat pitch either at the left center field fence or over at the right field fence near the Sun Palace Hotel.

Statistician Roque Celis, however, had

to thank a number of people who volunteered to retrieve the home run balls in order to continue with the game.

After DCCA took a 37-3 lead after five complete innings, fans of the defending champions waited patiently as the only thing left to be settled is the final score.

Pete Tomokane, who was named finals most valuable player, led the DCCA hit parade going 5-for-6 with

See DCCA on Page 26

## 4-person beach V-ball attracts 15 teams

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Fifteen teams will be competing for the title in the 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League, which opened its

2008 season on Tuesday at the PIC beach side.

Action began on Tuesday night with 670 Boom Boom, Gigi, Snap Crackle Pop, and MHS Peers besting their opponents to open their respective title bids on a winning note.

All four games needed the third set to decide the winner of each match.

670 Boom Boom overcame a first set loss to beat GCA, 6-11, 11-8, 11-1, while Gigi needed endgame poise to secure a 3-11, 11-3, 14-12 win over the Herbalizers.

Snap Crackle Pop overcame Tsunami's gallant stand to escape with an 11-3, 5-11, 11-2 triumph while MHS Peers pulled off a 2-11, 11-7, 11-6 decision against 15 of Fame.

The other competing teams are Angan, Fatingali, Kiss My Pass, MHS Okies, MHS Young Gunz, Spike'A'Sauras, and Spiked Punch.

Four games will be played every Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thurs-

See 4-PERSON on Page 26

## Red Sox cage Enforcers in shutout



JON PEREZ

Nathan Sablan, right, of the Bank of Saipan Red Sox slides to home plate while Dare JPO Enforcers catcher Matthew Tenorio prepares to make the tag in their Majors division game in the Saipan Little League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The Bank of Saipan Red Sox made short work of the DPS Dare JPO of Rep. Diego T. Benavente scoring a

12-0 shutout in yesterday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan

Field.

Alex Monkeya threw 86 pitches in the game and nearly blew the shutout in the top of the fourth after putting two runners on base. He forced Brandon Regis and Matthew Tenorio to consecutive ground outs on a 1-3 and 6-3 putout plays for two quick outs.

He gave up back-to-back walks to Joe Gilnafred and Cedric Camacho as the Enforcers nearly scored but man-

ing SaipanCell Patriots and the Happy Market Ol'Aces.

On Tuesday, Ol'Aces' defense helped them squeeze out a 4-3 victory against the AA Enterprise/TCC World Braves of Tanapag.

Ol'Aces only need one more out to end the game after T.J. Sablan struck out Haime Blas and J.J. Lifofoi.

Logan Martin then connected on Sa-

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## CNMI Men gearing up for Guam

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



In less than two weeks, the CNMI Men's National Football Team will defend its home pitch in an effort to do what last year's squad was unable to accomplish by beating Guam on Saipan.

Last year, football fans from across the world watched as the home team came within one goal of beating the FIFA-ranked Guamanians, as the visitors escaped with a 3-2 victory at the Oleai Sports Complex. A week later, the men from Saipan were unable to find similar success against their heavily favored opponents abroad, as Guam dismantled the CNMI at home, 9-0, in the rematch.

Aside from pleasing their fan faithful at Harmon Field, the Guamanians also drew first blood in the Inaugural Marianas Cup. This month's match will mark the second time the regional



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Men's National Team player Angelo Villagomez warms up on the sidelines before a scrimmage against some of Saipan's International All-Stars.

rivals vie for the giant perpetual trophy, and several new faces will don the home team's uniforms on Sunday, April 27, at the OSC.

Team CNMI will be without 11 of players that filled out its roster in 2007,

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